DISCIPLINE

OF THE

United Brethren in Christ

1885.

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ORIGIN, DOCTRINE,

CONSTITUTION,

AND

DISCIPLINE

OF THE

UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST.

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CHAPTER I.

ORIGIN OF THE UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST.

In the eighteenth century it pleased the Lord our God to awaken persons in different parts of the world, who should raise up the Christian religion from its fallen state and preach the gospel of Christ crucified in its purity.

About the middle of the said century, the Lord, in mercy, remembered the Germans in America, who, living scattered in this extensive country, seldom had an opportunity to hear the gospel of a crucified Savior preached to them in their native language.

Among others, he raised up WILLIAM OTTERBEIN and MARTIN BOEHM, in the State of Pennsylvania, and GEORGE A. GEETING, in the State of Maryland, armed them with spirit, grace, and strength to labor in his neglected vineyard, and to call, among the Germans in America, sinners to repentance. These men obeyed the call of their

Lord and Master. Their labors were blest, and they established in many places excellent societies and led many precious souls to Jesus Christ. Their sphere of action spread more and more, so that they found it necessary to look about for more fellow-laborers to engage in the vineyard of the Lord, for the harvest was great and the laborers few. The Lord called others, who were willing to devote their strength to his service. Such, then, were accepted by one or other of the preachers as fellow-laborers.

The number of members in the society in different parts of the country continued to increase from time to time, and the gracious work of reformation spread through the states of Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia. Several great meetings were appointed and held annually. On such occasions OTTERBEIN would hold particular conversations with the preachers then present, and represent to them the importance of the ministry and the necessity of their utmost endeavors to save souls. At one of these meetings it was resolved to hold a conference with all the preachers, in order to take into consideration how, and in what manner, they might be most useful.

The first conference was held in the city of Baltimore, Maryland, in the year of our Lord 1789. The following preachers were present:

Wm. Otterbein.	Adam Lehman.
Martin Boehm.	John Ernst.
Geo. A. Geeting.	Henry Weidner.

Christian Newcomer.

The second conference was held in Paradise Township, York County, Pennsylvania, at the house of Bro. Spangler, in the year of our Lord 1791. The following preachers were present:

Wm. Otterbein.	John Ernst.
Martin Boehm.	J. G. Pfrimmer.
Geo. A. Geeting.	John Neidig.
Christian Newcomer.	Benedict Sanders.

Adam Lehman.

After mature deliberation as to how they might labor most usefully in the vineyard of the Lord, they again appointed as fellow-laborers such as they had cause to believe had experienced true religion in their souls.

Meantime the number of members continued to increase, and the preachers were obliged to appoint an annual conference, in order to unite themselves more closely and to labor more successfully in the vineyard of the Lord; for some had been Presbyterians or German Reformed, some Lutherans, and others Mennonites. They accordingly appointed a conference to be held on the 25th of September, 1800, in Frederick County, Maryland, at the house of Bro. Frederick Kemp. The following preachers were present:

Wm. Otterbein.	Christian Krum.
Martin Boehm.	Henry Krum.
Geo. A. Geeting.	John Hershey.
Christian Newcomer.	Jacob Geisinger.
Adam Lehman.	Henry Boehm.
Abraham Tracksel.	Dietrick Aurand.

J. G. Pfrimmer.

There they united themselves into a society which bears the name "United Brethren in Christ," and elected Wm. Otterbein and Martin Boehm as superintendents, or bishops, and agreed that each of them should be at liberty as to the mode and manner of baptism, to perform it according to his own convictions.

From this time, the society increasing still more and more, preachers were appointed to travel regularly, inasmuch as the number of preaching-places could not otherwise be attended to; and the work spread itself into the states of Ohio and Kentucky. It then became necessary to appoint a conference in the State of Ohio, because it was conceived too laborious for the preachers who labored in those states to travel annually such a great distance to conference.

Meantime Brothers Boehm and Geeting died, and Brother Otterbein desired that another bishop should be elected (because infirmity and old age would not permit him to superintend any

longer), who should take charge of the society, and preserve discipline and order. It was resolved at a former conference that whenever one of the bishops died another should be elected in his place. Accordingly, BROTHER CHRISTIAN NEWCOMER was elected bishop, to take charge of and superintend the concerns of the society.

The want of a *discipline* in the society had long been deeply felt, and partial attempts to provide one having been made at different times, it was resolved, at the conference held in the State of Ohio, that a general conference should be held in order to accomplish the same, in a manner not derogatory to the word of God. The members of this conference were to be elected from among the preachers in the different parts of the country, by a vote of the society in general. The following brethren were duly elected :

CHRISTIAN NEWCOMER.	DANIEL TROYER.
ABRAHAM HEISTAND.	GEO. BENEDUM.
ANDREW ZELLER.	ABRA'M TRACKSEL.
CHRISTIAN BERGER.	HENRY G. SPAYTH.
ABRAHAM MYER.	I. NIGHSWANGER.
JOHN SCHNEIDER.	CHRISTIAN KRUM.
HENRY KUMLER.	JACOB BOWLUS.

The conference convened on the 6th of June, 1815, near Mount Pleasant, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania. After mature deliberation, they

presented to their brethen a discipline, containing the doctrine and rules of the Church, desiring that they, together with the word of God, should be strictly observed.

God is a God of order, but where there is no order and no church-discipline the spirit of love and charity will be lost.

Therefore, brethren, we beseech you to follow the example of our Lord, as it is written, "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another. Let the mind be in you which was in Christ, who took upon him the form of a servant, humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross," that by his grace we may submit ourselves one to another in the fear of God. He who will not submit is in want of humble love. Jesus said, "Whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another; and whoso loveth not his brethren abideth in death." Let us walk in newness of life, that the prayer of our Lord may be answered in us; that we may be one in him, and that he may give us the glory which he gave to his disciples, that we may be one even as he and the Father are one. Therefore, beloved brethren, let us strive to be like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord,

of one mind. Let no one speak or think evil of his brother, but pray God that he may grant us his Spirit and an earnest desire to lead a truly devoted life, to the honor and glory of his holy name. Amen.

CHAPTER II.

CONFESSION OF FAITH.

In the name of God we declare and confess before all men, that we believe in the only true God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; that these three are one—the Father in the Son, the Son in the Father, and the Holy Ghost equal in essence or being with both; that this triune God created the heavens and the earth, and all that in them is, visible as well as invisible, and furthermore sustains, governs, protects, and supports the same.

We believe in Jesus Christ; that he is very God and man; that he became incarnate by the power of the Holy Ghost in the Virgin Mary, and was born of her; that he is the Savior and Mediator of the whole human race, if they with full faith in him accept the grace proffered in Jesus; that this Jesus suffered and died on the cross for us, was buried, arose again on the third day, ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God, to intercede for us; and that he shall come again at the last day to judge the quick and the dead.

We believe in the Holy Ghost; that he is equal in being with the Father and the Son, and that he comforts the faithful, and guides them into all truth.

We believe in a holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting.

We believe that the Holy Bible, Old and New Testaments, is the word of God; that it contains the only true way to our salvation; that every true Christian is bound to acknowledge and receive it with the influence of the spirit of God, as the only rule and guide; and that without faith in Jesus Christ, true repentance, forgiveness of sins, and following after Christ, no one can be a true Christian.

We also believe that what is contained in the Holy Scriptures, to-wit: the fall in Adam and redemption through Jesus Christ, shall be preached throughout the world.

We believe that the ordinances, viz: baptism and the remembrance of the sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ, are to be in use, and practiced by all Christian societies; and that it is incumbent on all the children of God particularly to practice them; but the manner in which ought always to be left to the judgment and understanding of every individual. Also the example of washing feet is

left to the judgment of every one, to practice or not; but it is not becoming of any of our preachers or members to traduce any of their brethren whose judgment and understanding in these respects is different from their own, either in public or in private. Whosoever shall make himself guilty in this respect, shall be considered a traducer of his brethren, and shall be answerable for the same.

CHAPTER III.

CONSTITUTION.

We, the members of the CHURCH OF THE UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST, in the name of God, do, for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, as well as to produce and secure a uniform mode of action, in faith and practice, also to define the powers and the business of quarterly, annual, and general conferences, as recognized by this church, ordain the following articles of CONSTITUTION:

ARTICLE I.

SECTION 1. All ecclesiastical power herein granted, to make or repeal any rule of discipline, is vested in a general conference, which shall consist of elders, elected by the members in every conference district throughout the society; pro-

vided, however, such elders shall have stood in that capacity three years, in the conference district to which they belong.

SEC. 2. General Conference is to be held every four years; the bishops to be considered members and presiding officers.

SEC. 3. Each annual conference shall place before the society the names of all the elders eligible to membership in the General Conference.

ARTICLE II.

SECTION 1. The General Conference shall define the boundaries of the annual conferences.

SEC. 2. The General Conference shall, at every session, elect bishops from among the elders throughout the Church, who have stood six years in that capacity.

SEC. 3. The business of each annual conference shall be done strictly according to Discipline; and any annual conference acting contrary thereunto, shall, by impeachment, be tried by the General Conference.

SEC. 4. No rule or ordinance shall at any time be passed to change or do away the Confession of Faith as it now stands, nor to destroy the itinerant plan.

SEC. 5. There shall no rule be adopted that will infringe upon the rights of any as it relates to the

mode of baptism, the sacrament of the Lord's-supper, or the washing of feet.

SEC. 6. There shall be no rule made that will deprive local preachers of their votes in the annual conferences to which they severally belong.

SEC. 7. There shall be no connection with secret combinations, nor shall involuntary servitude be tolerated in any way.

SEC. 8. The right of appeal shall be inviolate.

ARTICLE III.

The right, title, interest, and claim of all property, whether consisting in lots of ground, meeting-houses, legacies, bequests or donations of any kind, obtained by purchase or otherwise, by any person or persons, for the use, benefit, and behoof of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ, is hereby fully recognized and held to be the property of the church aforesaid.

ARTICLE IV.

There shall be no alteration of the foregoing constitution, unless by request of two thirds of the whole society.

CHAPTER IV.

MEMBERS.

SECTION I.

RECEPTION OF MEMBERS.

Ques. How shall members be taken into our church?

Ans. When at any meeting a person makes known a desire to become a member of our church, then the preacher present shall, in the hearing of the congregation, ask such person the following questions:

Questions to Members.

1. Do you believe the Bible to be the word of God, and that therein only is contained the knowledge of the way of salvation?

2. Have you experienced the pardon of your sins, and have you now peace with God?

3. Are you determined by the grace of God to follow Christ, renouncing the world and all ungodliness, seeking to lead a life of holiness and devotion to God and his cause?

4. Are you willing to be governed by our church-discipline?

Members Received.

1. If the person answer the above questions in the affirmative, and no lawful objections be made by any member, then the preacher shall give his

right hand to such person as a member of our church, and record the name on the church or class book; provided, however, that where a church deems it advisable for its protection against imposition a committee may be appointed, who, together with the pastor, may make inquiry as to the advisability of admitting such applicants to membership in the Church according to the foregoing requirements.

Seekers.

2. Any persons giving evidence that they are sincerely seeking the Lord, may be received under the watch-care of the Church by having their names placed upon the class-book, but shall not be reported as members, nor shall they have any vote in the Church until they shall have conformed to the rules in the section relating to the reception of members.

3. If any person thus received under the watch-care of the Church shall cease to manifest a desire to seek the Lord, the preacher in charge, by the consent of the officers of the class, may, at any time, after personal but unsuccessful labor for his salvation by the preacher in charge and class-leader, publicly drop the name of such seeker.

Preacher's Responsibility.

4. Any preacher refusing or neglecting to ask the foregoing questions, or who shall receive mem-

bers into the Church in violation of this order, shall be answerable for the same in the conference of which he is a member.

SECTION II.

DUTIES OF MEMBERS.

1. All members of this church shall acknowledge and confess that they believe the Bible to be the word of God; that they will henceforth strive, with all their hearts, to seek their eternal welfare in Christ Jesus, and work out their salvation with fear and trembling, to the end that they may be enabled to flee from the wrath to come.

Means of Grace.

2. Every member shall endeavor to lead a godly life; attend to the ordinances of God's house; namely, baptism and the remembrance of the sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ; be diligent in prayer, particularly in private, and for his own edification attend, when practicable, all our prayer and class meetings, and meetings for public worship.

Family Piety.

3. Heads of families should never omit to pray with their families, morning and evening, and to set them a good example in all the Christian virtues.

Love to Others.

4. Every one should strive to walk as in the presence of God, and accustom himself to a close communion with God in all his employments; and never to speak evil of his fellow-beings, but practice love toward friend and foe, do good to the poor, and endeavor to be a follower of Jesus Christ *in deed.*

Sabbath Observance.

5. Every one shall keep the Sabbath-day holy, as required in the word of God; neither buy nor sell, but spend the same in exercises of devotion, in reading and hearing the word of God, and in singing spiritual hymns to the honor and glory of God.

Obedience to Government.

6. It is the duty of every member to lead a quiet, peaceable, and godly life among men, as it becomes a Christian to live in peace, and be subject to the higher or ruling powers, as the word of God requires.

Sabbath-School.

7. It is the duty of all our members to encourage our Sabbath-schools by their presence when practicable, and always to give them their aid and influence.

Support of the Gospel.

8. It is the duty of all members of the Church to pay toward the support of the itinerant minis-

try, quarterly, or oftener if need be, in proportion to their ability, as God has prospered them; for the Lord hath ordained that they who preach the gospel shall live by the gospel. (I. Cor. ix. 14; I. Tim. v. 18.)

Receiving the Pastor.

9. It is the advice of the General Conference that all districts, stations, circuits, and missions cheerfully receive the preachers appointed by the stationing committee of the respective annual conferences.

Care of the Poor.

10. Each member of our church should willingly and freely contribute quarterly, or oftener if need be, as God has prospered him or her (I. Cor. xvi. 2), to the support of the helpless poor.

11. When it is known by any of our class-leaders that there are poor members among them, who by sickness, accident, or other unavoidable circumstances have been brought to want, it shall be the duty of the leader in charge to wait upon the class, or to appoint some one to do so, to ask alms, money, clothing, or produce, as the circumstances may require. Should any one class be too poor to alleviate its poor, it shall then be made known to the pastor in charge, whose duty it shall be to inform the different classes on his charge; and if it should so happen that any one charge should be

insufficient to meet the wants of its poor, it shall be the duty of the presiding elder to present the matter on the different charges at their quarterly conferences, so that the unavoidably poor of our church may be considered and provided for. (I. John iii. 17; Psalms xii. 1, 2.)

Nonconformity to the World.

12. Inasmuch as the Lord has commanded us not to be conformed to this world (Rom. xii. 2), to lay apart all filthiness, and superfluity of naughtiness (James i. 21), and as the principles of the Christian religion, as taught by both the precepts and the example of the meek and adorable Savior, are in strict and perfect accordance with these commandments, we therefore humbly beseech and admonish the members of our church to observe these divine precepts. In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with braided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array, but (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works (1. Tim. ii. 9, 10); and whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; but let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. (I. Peter iii. 3, 4.)

Duty of Obedience.

The foregoing rules are drawn up for the better regulation of our church; and we believe they are founded in the word of God, and incumbent on all who are members of our church to observe. Should any violate or habitually neglect these rules, they shall be, by their respective class-leaders, admonished to reformation; and should they not reform, they shall be suspended or expelled, as the case may require.

SECTION III.

TRIAL OF MEMBERS.

Ques. 1. What shall be done when members trespass against each other?

Ans. "If thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as a heathen man and a publican;" that is, he shall be expelled.

Immoral Conduct.

Ques. 2. What shall be done in case of members accused of trespass or immoral conduct?

Ans. The class shall appoint one or more to visit the accused brother or sister, and, if possible

reclaim him or her; but if unsuccessful, he or she shall be tried by the class to which they belong, or a committee thereof, chosen by the parties concerned, with the preacher in charge of the circuit or station, who shall be chairman; and if found guilty, the accused shall be expelled, unless satisfaction be given by an expression of repentance or otherwise. If the accused refuse to choose his committee-man, when properly notified, the quarterly conference shall choose a second person, and these two a third, which committee shall try the case and decide. Yet cases may happen where it would be expedient to choose a committee from any other class or classes than the one to which the parties belong; also, an elder may be chosen as chairman, should the preacher in charge deem it best to do so. Should any member be dissatisfied with the decision, an appeal may be had to the quarterly conference, by giving notice thereof to the preacher in charge or secretary of the trial. (See section on appeals.) In such case, however, the same persons shall not sit in judgment on the same case.

Disobedience to the Order of the Church.

Ques. 3. What shall be done in cases of neglect of duty of any kind, imprudent conduct, indulging sinful tempers or words, or disobedience to the order and discipline of the Church?

Ans. First, let private reproof be given by the preacher or leader; and if there be an acknowledgment of the fault, proper humiliation, and a promise to reform, the person may be borne with. On a second offense, the preacher or leader shall take with him one or two faithful members. On a third offense, let the case be brought before the Church or class, or a select committee; and if there be no satisfactory humiliation, the offender shall be expelled by vote of the society.

In case of trial under this clause, the leader shall act in behalf of the Church; or if the leader be the offender, the steward shall act as prosecutor.

Disputes.

Ques. 4. What shall be done in case of disputes between members or preachers?

Ans. The preacher to whom it shall be known shall inquire into the circumstances of the case, and, if necessary, shall recommend to the contending parties a reference, consisting of one arbiter chosen by the plaintiff, and another by the defendant, and a third by these two; then these three are to decide. But if the preacher to whom the dispute is known shall refuse or neglect to act, then the quarterly conference shall appoint one to carry out the rule; and if either or both disputants refuse to choose an arbiter, the quarterly conference shall appoint the first and second, and these two a third, who shall hear the case and decide.

Right of Appeal.

Should either be dissatisfied with the decision, such may have a right to an appeal to the next quarterly conference for a second arbitration, where each party shall choose two arbiters, and the four shall choose a fifth, a decision of a majority of whom shall be final. Any person refusing to abide by this decision shall be expelled without further trial.

Going to Law Forbidden.

Every member refusing, in case of debt or dispute, to refer the matter to arbitration when recommended to him by a preacher or leader, or who shall enter into a law suit with another member before these measures are taken, shall be expelled without further process, and his or her name be so recorded upon the church-record by the preacher in charge, or the class-leader, except when the case is of such a nature as to require and justify a process at law, as executors or administrators, or when a member is in danger of suffering an unexpected loss of property.

Record of Trials.

Every class-leader shall keep a record of the proceedings of church-trials, deaths, expulsions, and removals, in a book provided for that purpose; and it shall be his duty, in case of an appeal, to furnish his record to the quarterly conference.

Order in Trials.

All church-trials shall be conducted in a consistent Christian manner, without the employment of magistrates and attorneys to administer oaths and conduct investigations.

SECTION IV.

TRANSFER AND DISMISSAL OF MEMBERS.

When members of our society move from one field to another they shall obtain a certificate of transfer by a vote of the majority of the class to which they belong, signed by a preacher or leader, except where they are not in reach of a class, in which case any of our preachers may give a certificate to such persons if they are known to be in good standing; and the pastor shall notify the preacher in charge nearest the point to which the member moves.

Membership of Preachers.

An annual-conference member may be received into a class on his ministerial credentials, so long as said credentials are held in force by the conference to which he is amenable.

Amenability of Certified Members.

Any person receiving a certificate of membership of good standing is amenable to the class from which he receives it, until he deposit his certificate with some other church or class.

CHAPTER V.

GOVERNMENT OF THE CHURCH.

SECTION I.

CLASSES.

Election of Leader.

1. A class shall consist of three or more members, who shall annually elect one member from their own or some other class, to be called their leader. This election shall be held immediately preceding the annual conference.

Division of Classes.

2. Classes shall be divided by a committee, consisting of the preacher in charge and one or more brethren, elected by the Church at any place where it may be deemed necessary. Each class so formed shall have the power to elect its own leader, and shall be considered as having all the rights and privileges of separate classes.

Disbanding Classes.

3. In case it becomes impracticable to keep up an organization by the election of class-officers, the members at such place shall be required to join the nearest class within six months; and any one failing to do so may be dropped.

Section II.

CLASS-LEADERS.

Holding Meetings.

Ques. 1. What are the duties of a class-leader?

Ans. 1. It shall be the leader's duty to meet his class, in class or prayer meeting, at least once a week, to speak to them concerning the spiritual welfare of their souls, and exhort them to unity and love. He shall extend the freedom of our prayer and class meetings to all sincere and well-disposed persons who may desire to attend them.

Qualifications.

2. It shall be his duty to lead a pious life and set a godly example before his class; carefully to study the Holy Scriptures, fully qualifying himself for the faithful performance of his duties as leader and counselor of his class.

Visiting the Sick and Delinquent.

3. When any of his members are sick or delinquent in the performance of any of their duties as Christians, he shall visit them, pray or otherwise labor with them, as circumstances may require.

Dismissal for Delinquency.

Any class-leader failing to discharge these duties may, on complaint, be removed by the quarterly conference.

SECTION III.

CLASS-STEWARDS.

Every class shall have a class-steward, who shall annually be appointed by the preacher in charge and the official members of the church, subject to the approval of the class.

Ques. What are the duties of a steward?

Collections for Pastors.

Ans. 1. He shall collect quarterly contributions, or oftener than quarterly, if needed, for the support of traveling preachers. He shall keep an accurate account of the amount paid by each member of the class, in a book provided for that purpose, and report the same, with name and amount, to each quarterly conference or official meeting.

Elements for the Lord's Supper.

2. It shall also be his duty to provide the elements for the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, always securing, if at all possible, unfermented wine.

Dismissal for Delinquency.

3. For the faithful discharge of his duties as steward of his class, he shall be accountable to the quarterly conference, which shall have power to dismiss him for official delinquency.

SECTION IV.

OFFICIAL MEETINGS FOR STATIONS.

Members.

Ques. 1. Who are the members of the official meeting?

Ans. 1. All the properly-recognized members of the quarterly conference.

2. The preacher in charge shall be the president of the meeting; and in his absence one of the members shall be elected president *pro tem.*

3. The president shall call the meeting to order, and begin and conclude with prayer.

Duties of Official Meetings.

Ques. 2. What is the business of the official meeting?

Ans. 1. It shall be the duty of the meeting to elect a secretary, who shall make a record of the proceedings of the meeting.

2. To elect a treasurer, whose duty it shall be to receive from stewards all moneys that have been collected, and receipt therefor; and said treasurer shall pay out all moneys in his hands as the official meeting may direct.

3. To receive a statement from each class-leader in reference to the prosperity of religion in his class.

4. This body shall meet once a month, and may meet oftener if circumstances require.

5. It shall be the duty of the official meeting to receive all reports of subscriptions, and moneys collected and disbursed for the interest of the station; and all persons intrusted with subscriptions or moneys shall report the same to the meeting as soon as possible.

6. It shall be the duty of the official meeting to submit its doings to the quarterly conference for examination and approval.

SECTION V.

QUARTERLY CONFERENCE.

Members.

Ques. 1. Who are the members of the quarterly conference?

Ans. The presiding elder of the district, the preacher in charge, and all the properly-recognized preachers, exhorters, leaders, stewards, and trustees of meeting and parsonage houses, and superintendents of Sabbath-schools (when said trustees and superintendents are members of the church of the United Brethren in Christ), who reside within the bounds of the circuit, station, or mission, or hold membership therein.

Quorum.

Such members as are present at any regular meeting shall constitute a quorum sufficient to transact the business of the quarterly conference.

Devotions.

It shall be the duty of the quarterly conference to open and close with prayer.

Duties of the Quarterly Conference.

Ques. 2. What is the business of the quarterly conference?

Ans. 1. In the absence of the presiding elder, the quarterly conference shall elect a chairman *pro tem.*, whose official acts shall be valid.

2. To elect a secretary, whose duty it shall be to keep a correct record of all their proceedings in a book provided for that purpose, in which the names of all the members composing the said conference shall be entered.

3. To make inquiry into the moral deportment and official character of all its members.

Appeals and Trials.

4. To receive and try all appeals, references, and complaints that may come regularly before it; but no member of quarterly conference can be suspended or expelled from the Church prior to a committee trial. When a quarterly-conference preacher or exhorter is accused of any misdemeanor, he shall be tried by a committee of three, of which the accused shall choose one and the quarterly conference a second, and these two a third. If the accused refuse or neglect to choose

his committee-man after being properly notified, the quarterly conference shall choose a first and a second person, and these two a third, who shall hear the case and decide; and if the accused is found guilty he shall be silenced; provided, however, that either party shall have the right of appeal to the next quarterly conference for a new trial.

Discipline and Duties.

5. To enforce discipline in all the classes under its jurisdiction, but in no case to disorganize a class unless the preliminary steps have been taken as required in Chapter V., Section I., of Discipline.

6. To make settlement with the stewards and traveling preachers.

Licensing of Preachers.

7. To grant license to exhort or preach to such as may have been recommended by at least two thirds of the class of which they are members; provided, however, that none shall receive license who can not give satisfactory evidence of their call, experience, soundness in doctrine, and attachment to our church and government. All applicants for quarterly-conference license to preach shall be examined by quarterly conference according to Chapter VI., Section II., of Discipline.

8. To renew the license of exhorters and quarterly-conference licensed preachers, annually, if

they are found worthy, and to arrange a plan for the local preachers to preach regularly at stated places, as the quarterly conference may direct.

Recommending to the Annual Conference.

9. After such licentiate preachers have stood in that capacity one or more years, the quarterly conference may recommend them to the annual conference.

Permanent License.

10. Quarterly-conference preachers having passed the course of reading required by Discipline, may be retained with permanent license, not subject to annual renewal.

11. All preachers recommended to the annual conference, and not received, may retain their former relation.

Excusing from Examination.

12. The quarterly conference may excuse from the course of reading a local preacher who has attained the age of forty years.

Class Connection.

13. All exhorters and quarterly and annual conference preachers are required to join some convenient class, and upon neglect or refusal to do so shall lose their official relation.

General Steward.

14. The quarterly conference, at its last session in each year, shall appoint a steward for the charge, whose duty it shall be to assist the class-stewards in securing the preacher's salary.

Estimating Committee.

15. The quarterly conference shall at its last session for the year appoint an estimating committee for the ensuing year, which committee shall meet at the time and place specified by the preacher appointed to the charge for the ensuing year, and make out an estimate of the regular expenses of the circuit, station, or mission, and apportion the same among the different appointments according to their several abilities, reporting the same to the quarterly conference for ratification.

Apportionments to the Classes.

16. Each class, after receiving its apportionment, shall as soon as convenient, on the call of the leader or steward, hold a meeting and appoint a committee whose duty it shall be to make a dividend of the apportionment to each member thereof according to his or her ability, to be paid quarterly or monthly; provided, however, that it shall be the privilege of any class to collect the amount apportioned to it by subscription or otherwise.

Questions.

Ques. 3. Where shall our next quarterly conference be held?

Ques. 4. Is there anything more to be done?

Appeals.

Ques. 5. What directions are necessary in case of appeals?

Ans. Any exhorter or preacher dissatisfied with the decision of a quarterly conference shall, within thirty days after the quarterly conference, notify the secretary, in writing, of his intention to appeal, together with his reasons for so doing; and it shall be the duty of the secretary to take or send a certified copy of the proceedings, the notification, and reasons assigned, to the annual conference.

In all cases of appeal, whether to the quarterly, annual, or General Conference, the course laid down in this section on appeals is the proper course to be pursued.

Receiving Preachers from Other Churches.

Ques. 6. How are preachers from other churches received?

Ans. If they come to us with certificates of good standing in the society in which they have had membership, and give satisfaction to the quarterly conference on examination on the doc-

trine, discipline, government, and usages of our church, then the quarterly conference may license them, with the understanding that the quarterly-conference relation continue for at least one year, (provided, that an elder, ordained by the laying on of hands, coming to us shall be allowed to perform the functions of an elder during his probation,) after which, if their conduct and doctrine be in accordance with the gospel of Christ, they may be received into the annual conference as preachers, or elders, as the case may be.

Section VI.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

Members.

Ques. 1. Who are the members of this conference?

Ans. All the elders and licentiate preachers who have been duly received by the conference; *provided*, first: That any annual conference may receive into its body one layman from every charge in its bounds whenever two thirds of its members shall, in a regular annual session, decide so to do, notice of such vote to be given twenty-four hours before the time. Second: When an annual conference has adopted lay representation, it shall provide for the appointment of such lay representatives by such methods as in its wisdom it may

deem best. Third: The laymen thus chosen shall have all the privileges and rights of ministers in the annual conference, except the right to vote for the reception or expulsion of preachers, and the passing of preachers in the course of reading.

Order of Service.

Ques. 2. In what manner are the transactions of a conference to be conducted?

Ans. 1. A portion of scripture shall be read; also, there shall be singing and prayer each day, at the opening and closing of conference.

Secretaries.

2. The conference shall elect two secretaries, one German and one English, wherever it may be necessary, one of whom shall immediately on the adjournment of the annual conference transmit to the publishing agent at Dayton, Ohio, a true transcript of the footings of the conference chart.

Bishop Pro Tem.

3. If no bishop should be present, it shall be the duty of the annual conference to elect a bishop *pro tem.*, whose official acts shall be valid.

Examinations.

4. The preachers shall be examined respecting their deportment toward their fellow-beings, whether their conduct in life be blameless, and

whether they employ as much time as practicable to promote the kingdom of God, (according to Titus, 1st chapter, 7th to 9th verse, and II. Tim., 2d chapter, 15th verse,) and if found delinquent shall be admonished or advised, as the case may require. But should all admonition or advice fail, then the name of the delinquent person shall be erased from the minutes of the conference.

Absentees.

5. Should any member of the annual conference absent himself from the session of conference three years in succession, without giving a satisfactory reason for so doing, his name may be erased from the minutes of the conference.

Electioneering Forbidden.

6. No preacher shall be permitted to electioneer favorably to his own election to any office or delegation in the Church; and should any one be found doing so, he shall be accountable to the next annual conference of which he is a member, to be dealt with according to the judgment of said conference.

Questions.

The following questions shall also be asked:

1. Have any of the preachers died during the last year?

2. Who are candidates for the ministry?

3. Are any to be ordained to the office of elder?

4. What has been collected for contingent expenses and the salary of traveling preachers?

5. What has been done for missions?

6. What has been done for Sabbath-schools?

7. Has reckoning been made with the traveling preachers?

8. Who are the presiding elders?

9. Where are the preachers stationed this year?

10. Where shall our next conference be held?

11. Is there anything else to be done?

12. Is all that has been done entered upon record?

SECTION VII.

GENERAL CONFERENCE.

Ques. 1. Who are the members of the General Conference? (*See Constitution.*)

Conference Representation.

Ques. 2. What shall be the number of delegates to the General Conference?

Ans. Not less than two nor more than four from each annual-conference district. All conferences having less than three thousand members shall be entitled to two delegates. All conferences having three thousand and under six thousand five hundred members shall be entitled to three delegates. All conferences having six thousand five

hundred members and over that number, shall be entitled to four delegates.

Bishops' Announcement.

The Board of Bishops shall as early as possible announce the number of delegates to which each conference shall be entitled, as appears from the statistics of the annual conferences at the end of the third year of the term.

Election of Delegates.

Ques. 3. How are delegates to be elected?

Ans. 1. It shall be the duty of each annual conference to appoint a committee of three, and three alternates, to receive and count the votes, and immediately apprise those who have been elected; also to furnish each preacher in charge with a list of the names of all the elders eligible.

2. The leader and steward of each class shall constitute a board of election, who shall be furnished a copy of the above-named list, by the preacher in charge, at least ten months before the sitting of the General Conference; and the election shall be held invariably in the month of November next preceding the sitting of said conference.

3. It shall be the duty of each board of election to appoint a meeting of the members of their respective classes or churches, as the case may be, for the purpose of electing, by ballot, their delegates to represent them in General Conference.

Absent Voters.

4. Should any member be incapacitated by age or affliction to attend such meetings, and should any minister be absent on his charge, they may send their ballots containing the names of their choice, with their own names signed on the back of their ballots; provided, no votes shall be counted except those cast on the day appointed for said meeting.

Election Returns.

5. It shall be the duty of each board of election invariably to sign, inclose, and seal each bill of election, and keep a correct record of the same, also of all members voting, and immediately transmit a copy of such bill, stating what class, circuit, mission, or station, to the committee appointed by the annual conference.

Publication of Elections.

6. Said committee shall make out a list of all the persons voted for, and of the number of votes for each; and should any two or more of the candidates have an equal number of votes, the committee shall determine, by lot, which of them is elected. They shall also forward by the first of February the names of those elected to the conference Printing Establishment for publication; and if one or more of those elected should be pre-

vented, by death, sickness, or otherwise, from attending, it shall be the duty of the tellers to notify the next highest on the bill to take his place, and so descend, if need be, to the last candidate. No bills of election received by the tellers after the first of January shall be counted.

Presiding Elders' Duties.

7. It shall be the duty of each presiding elder to furnish each preacher in charge on his district with blank bills of election, the same to be distributed by said preachers to their respective boards of election.

Delegates' Expenses.

Ques. 4. How shall the expenses of the delegates to the General Conference be defrayed.

Ans. The annual conference next preceding the election of delegates to the General Conference shall ascertain the amount of money that will be necessary to defray the expenses of its delegates to General Conference, and apportion the same among its different fields of labor; and the preacher in charge shall collect and forward such amount to the presiding elder of his district, who shall transmit the amount to the tellers by the first of February preceding the General Conference. Should any preacher neglect his duty, he shall be accountable therefor to the next annual conference.

Duties of General Conference.

It shall be the duty of the General Conference to examine the administration of each annual conference, whether it has strictly observed the rules, and preserved the *moral* and *doctrinal* principles of the Discipline in all its transactions.

Election of Officers.

In the election of all officers of the General Conference, a majority of all the votes shall be necessary to a choice.

CHAPTER VI.

MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH.

SECTION I.

EXHORTERS.

How Licensed.

Ques. How are exhorters received?

Ans. Any person wishing to obtain license to exhort must obtain from the class of which he is a member, by a vote of two thirds of the members, a recommendation in writing, signed by the leader, or preacher in charge, to the quarterly conference of the circuit, station, or mission to which he belongs, which may license him, subject to an examination on questions for applicants for quarterly-conference license to preach.

Exhorters' Duties.

Ques. What are the duties of exhorters?

Ans. To make appointments wherever acceptable to the people; read portions of sacred scripture, exhorting therefrom; exhorting saints, that they with purpose of heart should cleave to the Lord, and sinners to flee from the wrath to come; and this they shall do as often as practicable.

Renewal of License.

The license of an exhorter is subject to renewal annually, at the discretion of the quarterly conference.

SECTION II.

QUARTERLY-CONFERENCE PREACHERS.

How Licensed.

Ques. How are quarterly-conference preachers received?

Ans. Any person wishing to obtain license to preach must obtain from the class of which he is a member, by a vote of two-thirds of the members, a recommendation in writing, signed by the leader or preacher, to the quarterly conference of the circuit, station, or mission to which he belongs; *provided*, that the person making application shall be examined by the quarterly conference, and the following questions asked by the chairman:

Examination of Applicants.

1. Do you believe our confession of faith as set forth in our book of Discipline?

2. Have you now peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ?

3. What is your motive in desiring permission to preach the gospel?

4. Are you satisfied with our church-government?

5. Will you submit yourself to the counsel of your brethren?

6. What is your knowledge of depravity, of redemption, of faith, of repentance, of justification, and of sanctification?

7. Will you abstain from the use of tobacco?

It shall be the privilege of the chairman to ask any other question or questions that he may deem necessary.

A man divorced from his wife, except on scriptural and legal grounds, shall not be granted license.

Course of Reading.

Quarterly-conference licensed preachers are required to pursue the course of reading prescribed in our book of Discipline, and to be examined annually by the presiding elder and preacher in charge at the fourth quarterly meeting.

Renewal of License.

The license of a quarterly-conference preacher who is not otherwise exempted by reason of passing the prescribed course of study, is subject to renewal annually, at the discretion of the quarterly conference.

Recommended to Annual Conference.

After such licentiate preachers have stood in that capacity one or more years, the quarterly conference may recommend them to the annual conference.

All preachers recommended to the annual conference, and not received, may sustain their former relation.

SECTION III.

ANNUAL-CONFERENCE PREACHERS.

How Received.

Ques. How are preachers received?

Ans. Every person proposed as a preacher shall be examined by the annual conference or a select committee thereof; and the following questions shall be asked him:

Preacher's Examination.

1. Have you known God in Christ Jesus to be a sin-pardoning God?

2. Have you now peace with God; and is the love of God shed abroad in your heart by the Holy Spirit?

3. Do you believe the Bible to be the word of God, and that therein is contained the only true way to our salvation?

4. What foundation have you for such belief?

5. Do you follow after holiness?

6. What is your motive for desiring permission to preach the gospel?

7. Do you believe that man, apart from the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, is fallen from original righteousness, and is not only entirely destitute of holiness, but is inclined to evil, and only evil, and that continually; and that except a man be born again he can not see the kingdom of heaven?

8. What is your knowledge of redemption, of faith, of repentance, justification, and sanctification?

9. Does your own salvation, and the salvation of your fellow-mortals, lie nearer to your heart than all other things in the world?

10. Will you subject yourself to the counsel of your brethren in the Lord?

11. Are you satisfied with our church-government?

12. Are you willing, as much as is in your power, to assist in upholding our itinerant plan?

13. Will you abstain from the use of tobacco?

Qualifications of Applicants.

None can be admitted without having a recommendation from the quarterly conference, and then only to be received on probation; but if the conference should, on examination, find that the candidate's abilities are insufficient to preach the gospel, it may refer him back to the quarterly conference, for further instruction.

A man divorced from his wife except on scriptural and legal grounds shall not be granted license.

An Expelled Preacher.

When a preacher or elder has been expelled or formally withdraws from one annual conference, he shall not be received into another without the consent of the conference from which he has been expelled.

Preacher's Transfer.

1. A preacher or elder who shall labor in the bounds of an annual conference, other than the one to which he belongs, for two years, shall be required to obtain a transfer from the conference to which he belongs and to unite with the conference in whose bounds he labors, or to return to his own conference for work; provided, that presidents and professors of schools and colleges, and others engaged in general church-work, shall be exempt from this requirement.

2. A preacher removing from one conference to another shall, when he applies to the latter for admission, produce a transfer from the conference to which he formerly belonged, signed by the presiding officer, or published in the minutes of the conference from which he has been transferred.

Limit of Transfer.

A preacher or elder who receives a transfer is required to present said transfer to another conference, or to return it to the conference by which it was issued, within two years after its date. Otherwise the transfer shall be null and void, and the name of the preacher shall be published as no longer connected with our church as a minister.

A Preacher a Quarterly-Conference Member.

A preacher or elder receiving a transfer shall be a member of the quarterly conference in whose bounds he may reside, and also be accountable for his moral and official conduct to the annual conference granting said transfer, until his transfer be received by the conference to which he has been transferred.

SECTION IV.

RECEPTION OF PREACHERS FROM OTHER CHURCHES.

Ques. How are preachers from other societies received?

Ans. If they come to us with certificates of

good standing in the church in which they have held membership; or with transfers from a conference, presbytery, or synod, and give satisfaction to the annual conference concerning their agreement on the doctrine, discipline, government, and usages of our church, then the conference may receive them. If they be ordained elders they must pass the examination required of candidates for elders' orders, but they may be exempt from the laying on of hands.

SECTION V.

CLASSIFICATION OF THE MINISTRY.

The ministry of the Church shall be classified after the following order: Itinerants, superannuated, supernumerary, and local.

Itinerants.

To this class shall belong all annual-conference ministers; provided, however, that they have passed the probation of three years in the annual conference, and have been, during this time, and are still engaged in the regular work of the Church.

Superannuated.

To this class shall belong such itinerants as are from age or physical infirmities unable to pursue the regular work of the ministry.

Supernumerary.

To this class shall belong such as have been admitted to the itineracy and are willing to work,

but for whom the conferences and Church, for the time being, are not able to find work, or who, by their own request, have been voted to such relation.

Local.

To this class shall belong such annual-conference preachers as are not admitted to the itineracy.

Class—How Determined.

The annual conference shall determine to which of the foregoing classes each minister shall belong. Should an itinerant leave in an irregular way the work assigned him, he shall forfeit his standing as an itinerant.

Evangelists.

Persons engaged in evangelistic work shall not be encouraged by our ministers if such evangelists do not hold membership in quarterly or annual conference.

SECTION VI.

ELDERS.

Ques. How is an elder constituted?

Elders' Probation.

Ans. After a probation of three years, a preacher may be presented to the annual conference; whereupon the bishop shall propose to conference the following questions:

Questions Regarding a Candidate.

Ques. 1. Is he blameless touching the marriage state?

2. Is his deportment in the social circle marked with watchful sobriety?

3. Is he hospitable toward the afflicted and needy?

4. Is he faithful in the public ministration of God's word, and diligent in reading and study?

5. Is his household subject to rules of piety?

Should the above questions be answered in the affirmative, a committee of three or five elders shall be appointed, before whom the candidate shall appear, and answer to the following questions; namely,

Committee Examination.

Ques. 1. Upon what foundation do you believe the Bible to be the word of God?

2. How do you prove the fall of man by transgression?

3. How do you prove the redemption of man by Jesus Christ?

4. Do you believe in the godhead of Jesus Christ?

5. What foundation have you for such a belief?

6. Do you believe in the Holy Ghost as presented in our confession of faith?

7. Upon what evidence do you believe this?

8. Do you believe in future everlasting punishment?

Duties of the Committee.

It shall be the privilege of the committee, in the close, to propose any question touching the answers given, wherein their understanding may not have been distinct. It shall also be their duty to make out, sign, and deliver to conference a report of each case which may have been before them.

Election to Elders' Orders.

If the committee and conference find the candidate worthy, by a majority of the votes of the elders of conference, he may be elected to ordination.

Elders Coming from Other Churches.

All ordained elders from other denominations, who may join our church as such, must pass the above examination ; but they may be exempt from the laying on of hands.

Limit of Probation.

When circumstances demand it, a licentiate may be presented to conference for ordination at any time prior to a probation of three years, provided two thirds of the elders present vote for the same.

Duties of Elders.

It is the duty of an elder to preach the gospel, to baptize, to administer the Lord's-supper, to solemnize marriages, to perform all parts of divine serv-

ice, to be an example to the flock of Christ by imitating his moral example; and in a very special manner it shall be the duty of an elder to cherish and encourage young ministers, and always to be looking for those whom God has called to preach, and advise them to take up the cross, and begin the work without delay, that the labor of this gospel harvest may be faithfully performed.

SECTION VII.

PRESIDING ELDERS.

Election of Presiding Elders.

Ques. How shall the presiding elders be elected?

Ans. The annual conference shall elect them by ballot. A majority of the whole number of votes shall be necessary to a choice.

Support of Presiding Elders.

Ques. What shall be done for the support of the presiding elders?

Ans. It shall be the duty of each annual conference to make such regulations for the support of the presiding elders as they in their wisdom may think best calculated to accomplish the desired end.

Stationing Presiding Elders.

Ques. How shall they be stationed?

Ans. By the bishop and two elders or preachers from each presiding-elder district.

Duties of Presiding Elders.

Ques. What are the duties of a presiding elder?

Ans. 1. To travel through the district appointed him, and to preach as often as practicable.

2. He shall appoint the quarterly and camp meetings, and attend them. He shall hold quarterly conferences, and administer the ordinances of God's house. He shall inquire whether the preachers do their duty, and exhort them to maintain discipline and order, love and seriousness in the society. He may also call extra sessions by the consent of a majority of the quarterly-conference members.

3. It shall be his duty to make strict inquiry if each itinerant minister has received the amount of salary due him, and in case of a deficiency to make an earnest effort to secure the balance due.

4. Each presiding elder shall give a report in writing, of his district, annually, to the annual conference.

Power to Exchange Preachers.

The presiding elder may, in conjunction with two elders, preachers, exhorters, or leaders (one from each circuit), change the preachers in his district.

Vacancy Filled by Appointment.

Should any district, through death, resignation, or otherwise, be without a presiding elder, infor-

mation shall be immediately given to the bishop, who shall appoint an elder to preside in said district until the ensuing annual conference.

SECTION VIII.

BISHOPS.

Election of Bishops.

Ques. How are the bishops to be elected?

Ans. The General Conference shall elect them, for the term of four years, by a majority of the whole number of votes, to be, at the option of conference, re-elected. The bishops must be capable of attending the conference appointed them; otherwise they can not be elected; *provided*, however, that the General Conference may elect a bishop *emeritus* when it deems it proper to do so; provided further, such bishop has served the Church in the episcopal office forty years consecutively.

Stationing of Bishops.

Ques. How shall the bishops' fields of labor be assigned them?

Ans. By the General Conference; and in the fields thus assigned them they shall devote their whole time. They shall be required to reside within the bounds of the district assigned them, if practicable; *provided*, however, that they shall have the privilege of making such temporary in-

terchanges as the welfare of their districts may demand.

The four bishops for America east of the Rocky Mountains shall arrange the times of holding the several conferences, and attend them in rotation so far as possible.

Salaries of Bishops.

Ques. How shall the salaries of the bishops be secured?

Ans. 1. The General Conference, after fixing the salaries of the bishops, shall by a committee, consisting of the chairman of each annual conference delegation, in conjunction with the bishop of the district, assess said salary, together with the amount necessary for moving and traveling expenses, to each conference according to their several abilities.

Ans. 2. Each annual conference shall apportion its respective part of the salary of its bishop, annually, to the several fields of labor in its bounds, according to the ability thereof.

Duties of Bishops.

Ques. What are the duties of bishops?

Ans. 1. To preside over the annual and general conferences, and strictly examine into the moral and official character of the members of the annual conferences in the bounds of their districts, and

insist upon it that all the laws of the Church are faithfully executed.

Stationing the Preachers.

2. In conjunction with the presiding elders of the past and present year, together with an equal number of local elders or preachers, they may fix the appointments of the traveling preachers for the several circuits, stations, and missions.

Stationing the Presiding Elders.

3. The bishop, in conjunction with two elders, elected by ballot, from each presiding-elder district, shall appoint the presiding elders to their respective districts.

Ordination of Preachers.

4. It shall be their duty to perform the rite of ordination at the annual conferences, and at such other times and places as circumstances may require, and then only upon such persons as have passed the usual examination required of candidates for ordination, by a committee of three elders chosen for that purpose by one of the bishops.

Annual Meeting.

5. The bishops shall hold annual meetings, in which they shall determine the time of holding the annual conferences, determine the order of the holding of the conferences, and who shall attend

each conference; decide questions of Discipline, adopt measures to secure uniformity in their administration, and, when circumstances demand it, appoint fast and thanksgiving seasons, and counsel upon the general interests of the Church.

Organizing Mission-Conferences.

6. In conjunction with the Board of Missions, a bishop shall have power to organize mission-conferences.

Missionary Collection.

7. The bishops shall take a missionary collection and subscription during the session of each conference.

In Mission-Fields.

8. The bishops shall devote as much of their time as possible, consistent with other duties, to visiting our missions, exploring new fields, and working upon the general financial and educational interests of the Church.

Reports.

9. The bishops shall publish annually, in the columns of the *Religious Telescope* and *Frœhliche Botschafter*, reports of their respective districts, and also the amount of salary received from the several annual conferences in their charge.

Delinquent.

10. When a bishop fails to perform his duty, unless through unavoidable circumstances, he can not be suffered to retain his office.

Annual Sermon.

11. It shall be the duty of the bishops to see that a suitable sermon be delivered to the preachers present at each annual conference.

Conference Superintendency.

12. The bishop last presiding at an annual conference shall be regarded as the superintendent of that conference for the ensuing year.

Vacant Districts.

Should any district become destitute of a bishop by death or otherwise, the senior of the remaining bishops, on due notice of said fact, shall call together at some central point in the vacated district the delegates of the preceding General Conference from said bishop's district, who shall elect a bishop to fill the vacancy. The expenses of said delegates shall be provided for by the conferences to which they belong.

SECTION IX.

PREACHERS' DUTIES IN GENERAL.

Ques. What are the duties of preachers?

Ans. To preach Christ crucified; to form classes, and report the same to the annual conferences; converse with the members on the spiritual condition of their souls; administer relief; strengthen and direct those that are afflicted and labor under

temptations; animate the indolent; endeavor as much as possible to edify and instruct all in faith, in grace, and in the knowledge of Jesus Christ; visit the sick on all occasions; strive to enforce and confirm the doctrine they deliver by a well-ordered and exemplary life.

Directions to Preachers.

Ques. What are the directions given to our preachers?

Ans. 1. Be diligent. Never trifle away your time. Always be serious. Let your motto be, "HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD!" Avoid all vain conversation, converse sparingly, conduct yourself prudently with women, and demean yourself in all respects as a true Christian. Be at all times averse to crediting evil reports. Believe evil of no one without good evidence. Put the best construction on everything.

2. Speak evil of no one. Whatever may be your thoughts, keep them within your own breasts until you can tell the person concerned what you think wrong in his conduct.

3. Let your business be to save as many souls as possible. To this employment give yourself up wholly. Visit those who need it, and act in all things, not according to your own will, but as sons in the gospel; for as such it becomes your

duty to employ your time in the manner prescribed, in preaching, and in visiting from house to house, in instruction and prayer, and in meditating on the word of God. With these be occupied until our Lord shall come.

Preachers not to Trespass.

No preacher shall arbitrarily form a circuit, mission, or station within the limits of a circuit or presiding-elder district, or shall receive compensation for labor performed without the consent of the preacher in charge; nor shall any minister preaching in a different language accept a call from any regularly organized class or congregation which does not belong to his conference, without the consent of the annual conference to which the charge making the request may belong. Any preacher violating the provisions of this section shall be amenable to his quarterly or annual conference.

CHAPTER VII.

ITINERACY.

SECTION I.

ITINERANTS—HOW CONSTITUTED.

Ques. Who are the itinerants?

Ans. All who propose themselves without reserve, after having traveled two years under the direction of the stationing committee or presiding

elder, and have been received, as such, by a vote of two thirds of the members of conference.

Withdrawing from the Itineracy.

If any one who is received, as above stated, shall cease to travel without giving satisfaction to the conference of which he is a member, he shall not be entitled to any support from the funds belonging to said conference. And, furthermore, he shall not re-enter the itineracy without the consent of at least two thirds of the conference. Yet supernumerary and superannuated relations shall be duly recognized as in accordance with this section, and may be secured to any brother having just claims thereto, by a vote of the conference.

Itinerant's Resignation.

Should a traveling preacher or elder desire to leave the work assigned him, he must first acquaint the presiding elder of his intention, by writing; and should any one leave or neglect his station, except it be through sickness or other unavoidable circumstances, he shall be accountable to the next annual conference.

Stationing Itinerants.

The bishop and presiding elders of the past and present years, together with an equal number of local elders or preachers, elected by ballot by the

annual conference, shall constitute a stationing committee, whose duty it shall be to supply all the circuits, stations, and missions, as far as practicable, from the list of itinerants.

The stationing committee shall have at least two meetings before its work is completed.

Appeal from Stationing Committee's Report.

If any of the preachers thus stationed, or any who may not receive an appointment, are dissatisfied, they shall have a right to appeal to the annual conference. If two thirds grant the appeal,* the decision shall be final.

Report of Stationing Committee.

The report of the stationing committee shall be read at least six hours before the adjournment of conference.

Limit of Pastorate.

No itinerant preacher shall be allowed to remain on the same station or circuit more than three consecutive years, unless particular circumstances require it, and then only with consent of the conference.

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* NOTE.—In case of an appeal from the decision of the stationing committee, no preacher stationed by said committee shall be changed, without his consent, to accommodate the preacher asking such appeal.

Employment of Other Preachers.

Should there not be enough itinerants to fill all the circuits, stations, and missions, such vacancies shall be supplied by the stationing committee or presiding elders.

Fields of Labor.

Ques. What shall be done to regulate the annual conferences in the division of circuits or stations?

Ans. A circuit or station shall not consist of any specific number of members or appointments; but when the annual conference thinks it able to support a minister, it may be recognized as such.

SECTION II.

DUTIES OF ITINERANTS.

Ques. What are the duties of an itinerant preacher?

Ans. 1. To take the charge assigned him willingly, and to move to it if practicable.

2. To attend the appointments on his circuit, preach to the people regularly, and hold class-meetings when practicable.

Correction of the Church Records.

3. He in connection with the official members of each class shall at least one month before annual conference correct the church-records, and appoint a steward, subject to the approval of the class. No name shall be erased from the records until the disciplinary steps have been taken. He shall hold

a society meeting and see that a class-leader is elected.

Presiding at Trials.

4. He shall sit as president on the trial of members and see that a correct account of the same is kept.

Reports.

5. To render a strict account (as indicated in form) of his work at each quarterly conference, where he is to be held accountable for neglect of duty.

Circulation of Literature.

6. It shall be his duty to use every laudable effort to circulate our books and church-periodicals, and to use due diligence to advance the interests of the conference Printing Establishment.

7. It shall be his duty to keep a list of the names of all the subscribers to our church-periodicals, and the time of subscribing, at the different appointments on his circuit, and hand it over to his successor at the annual conference, with the list of the appointments. He shall also report the number of subscribers to our periodicals on his field of labor at each quarterly conference, and be examined by the presiding elder and quarterly conference as to whether he performs his duty in circulating the periodicals of the Church among the people of his charge.

Dismissal of Appointments.

8. No preacher shall dismiss any appointment from his circuit, or mission, without the consent of quarterly conference.

Records.

9. He shall secure a suitable book for a church-record, in which he shall register all the appointments and classes on his circuit, station, or mission, in their regular order, with the name of each member attached to his or her class. He shall also make a record of all the baptisms, marriages, deaths, and proceedings of church-trials, with the names of all the parties in each case. He shall report this record with the proceedings therein to the last quarterly conference of each year for approval or improvement. This book shall be the property of the quarterly conference, and shall be in addition to the regular class-books and circuit-books.

General Collections.

10. It shall be the duty of preachers in charge of circuits, stations, and missions to collect the annual amount apportioned to their fields of labor for the support of the bishops and presiding elders.

Missionary Collections.

11. He shall hold a general missionary meeting at some convenient place on his work. He shall

also preach a missionary sermon, and appoint a soliciting committee at every appointment, whose duty it shall be, in conjunction with himself, to canvass the class and community, personally, to solicit funds for the missionary society. He shall also keep a list of the names of contributors, so far as possible, and report the same to conference for publication with the minutes, or in the annual report of the Board of Missions, as the conference may direct. He shall also establish monthly missionary prayer-meetings wherever practicable in the societies of his charge. He shall be held to strict account for the faithful performance of these duties.

Pastoral Visiting.

12. It shall be the duty of the preacher in charge of a station or circuit to give as much of his time as possible to visiting the families under his charge, and to pay strict attention to the young members under his care.

Evangelistic Work.

13. It shall be the duty of all preachers, whether local or itinerant, to make use of every laudable effort to enlarge the borders of our Zion, to spread scriptural holiness, and to report to their respective annual conferences the number of new appointments obtained.

SECTION III.

PREACHERS' SALARIES.

1. The salary of a pastor shall be such amount as may be agreed upon between him and the quarterly conference of the field of labor to which he is sent.

2. A missionary employed by the Board of Missions shall receive such salary as in the judgment of the Board may be proper.

3. Preachers sustaining a superannuated relation, and their widows and orphans, shall be provided for by their respective annual conferences, as their wants may require.

Parsonage and Moving of Preacher.

4. It shall be the duty of a circuit or station, when a preacher is sent to it by annual conference, to provide a house and move said preacher at their own expense.

SECTION IV.

TRIAL OF PREACHERS.

Quarterly-Conference Preachers.

1. The quarterly conference shall receive and try all appeals, references, and complaints that may come regularly before it; but no member of quarterly conference can be suspended or expelled from the Church prior to a committee trial. When

a quarterly-conference preacher or exhorter is accused of any misdemeanor, the leader or steward shall prosecute the case and shall inquire into the nature of the complaints, and if there be grounds for charges he shall present to the accused a copy of the charges and notify him to choose a committee-man, and the prosecutor shall choose a second committee-man; these two a third: and this committee shall try the case, the preacher in charge being chairman.

If the accused refuse or neglect, or fail, or is unable to choose a committee-man after being properly notified, the quarterly conference shall choose a first and second person, and these two a third, and this committee shall hear the case and decide. If the accused is found guilty, he shall be silenced; provided, however, either party shall have the right of appeal to the next quarterly conference for a new trial.

Annual-Conference Preachers.

2. *Ques.* What shall be done when a preacher, elder, or bishop is reported guilty of immorality, trespass, imprudent conduct, or disobedience to the order and discipline of the Church?

Ans. The preacher to whom it is known shall take with him another preacher, exhorter, or leader, and examine into the charge; but as the

apostle saith (I. Tim v. 19), "Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses" If it should appear that said reports are well founded, they shall be required to prefer charges against the accused; if not, they shall report to the next quarterly conference that they found no cause of action. If charges are preferred and no one be found willing to prosecute the case, then the next quarterly conference shall appoint a prosecutor, whose duty it shall be to notify the accused, in writing, of all the charges preferred against him. He shall also notify him to choose an elder as his committee-man, the prosecutor choosing an elder also as committee-man in behalf of the Church, and they two a third elder or preacher, before which committee the case shall be tried. The prosecutor shall also notify the presiding elder of the district within whose bounds said cause of accusation occurred; and it shall be the duty of the presiding elder to appoint the time and place of trial, giving not less than twenty nor more than forty days' notice, to the parties concerned, of said trial; and he shall also act as chairman in the case. Should the committee be satisfied that the accusation is sustained, they shall require him to hold his peace until the annual conference, where he shall be accountable; and it shall be the duty of the committee to trans-

mit in writing the entire proceedings of said trial to the annual conference, where the accused shall have a hearing before the conference or a select committtee thereof; and if the findings are sustained he shall be suspended, expelled, or retained, as the conference may determine. But should the accused, after having been duly notified, refuse or neglect to comply in choosing his committee-man and notify the prosecutor within fifteen days, the presiding elder shall suspend him until the annual conference, where, if he shall refuse to appear, he shall be dealt with according to the judgment of the conference; provided, however, if he be an elder, elders only shall vote in the case. If the accused or prosecutor be a presiding elder or a bishop, the presiding elder or bishop, as the case may be, next adjoining, shall act as chairman on the trial; provided, that in conferences having only one presiding elder, the bishop shall appoint a chairman to act in the case.

The foregoing relates only to annual-conference members.

SECTION V.

TRANSFER OF PREACHERS.

A preacher desiring to remove his memberhip from one conference to another shall, when he applies for admission into the conference to which he goes, produce a transfer from the conference to

which he formerly belonged, signed by the presiding officer, or published in the minutes of the conference from which he has been transferred

Limit of Transfer.

A preacher or elder who receives a transfer is required to present said transfer to another conference, or return it to the conference by which it was issued, within two years after its date. Otherwise the transfer shall be null and void, and the name of the preacher shall be published as no longer connected with the Church as a minister.

Transferred Preachers—Where Accountable.

A preacher or elder receiving a tranfer shall be a member of the quarterly conference in whose bounds he may reside, and also be accountable for his moral and official conduct to the annual conference granting said transfer until his transfer be received by the conference to which he has been transferred.

CHAPTER VIII.

APPEALS.

SECTION I.

FROM THE DECISION OF A CLASS.

Should any member be dissatisfied with the decision of a church or class, or committee of a church or class, an appeal may be had to the next

quarterly conference ensuing by giving notice thereof to the preacher in charge, or the secretary of the trial, within thirty days after said trial, together with his reasons for such appeal; and it shall be the duty of the secretary to furnish the quarterly conference with a certified copy of the proceedings of the trial and of the notice of the appeal.

SECTION II.

FROM THE DECISION OF A QUARTERLY CONFERENCE.

Any exhorter or preacher dissatisfied with the decision of a quarterly conference may appeal to the ensuing annual conference within thirty days after the quarterly conference, by giving notice to the secretary, in writing, of his intention to appeal, together with his reason for so doing; and it shall be the duty of the secretary to furnish a certified copy of the proceedings, the notification, and reasons assigned, to the annual conference.

SECTION III.

FROM THE DECISION OF ANNUAL CONFERENCES.

Any member of an annual conference who may be dissatisfied with the decision of his conference shall, within thirty days after the session of the annual conference, notify the secretary of said conference of his intention to appeal to the General

Conference, together with his reasons for so doing; and it shall be the duty of the secretary to furnish the General Conference with a certified copy of the notice, and reasons therefor, and of the proceedings of the annual conference in the case

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CHAPTER IX

DUTIES IN GENERAL.

SECTION I.

NECESSITY OF UNION AMONG OURSELVES

Let us be deeply sensible (from what we have known) of the evil of a division in principle, spirit, or practice, and of the dreadful consequences to ourselves and others. If we are united, what can stand before us? If we are divided we shall injure ourselves, the work of God, and the souls of our people.

What can be done in order to a closer union with each other?

1. Let us be deeply convinced of the absolute necessity of it.

2. Pray earnestly for and speak truly and freely to each other.

3. When we meet, let us never part without prayer, if prayer is at all practicable.

4. Take great care not to despise each other's gifts.

5. Never speak lightly of each other.

6. Let us defend each other's character in everything, so far as is consistent with truth.

7. Labor in honor, each preferring another before himself.

8. We recommend a serious examination of the causes, evils, and cures of heart and church divisions.

SECTION II.

PRACTICAL RELIGION.

Ques. How can we further assist those under our care?

Private Instruction.

Ans. 1. By instructing them at their own houses, which is necessary to promote confidence and communion with God among us, to wean us from the love of the world, and to inure us to a life of heavenly-mindedness; also, to encourage us to strive after and practice brotherly love, that no evil thinking or judging of one another be found among us, and lastly, that we may learn to do as we would wish to be done by.

Pastoral Instruction.

2. Every preacher should make it his duty to instruct the people on every occasion, both public and private, and exhort them to be diligent in all good works and doctrine. Until this be done, and that in sincerity, we shall, upon the whole, be of

little use, and our good shall be evil spoken of; therefore, wherever we may be, we should guard against useless and idle conversation.

Pastoral Visiting.

3. We believe that this private work of visiting from house to house and exhorting the people is founded or implied in these solemn words of the apostle: "I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publicly, and from house to house." (Acts 20 : 20.)

Section III.

SINGING.

We believe it to be the duty of all the people of God to sing his praises, and to sing them in the great congregation as well as in the private circle We therefore earnestly recommend to all our people the cultivation of vocal music, so that the singing in our congregations may be improved. As a help to this end, we advise all our people to provide themselves with hymn-books for use in times of public and social worship.

CHAPTER X.

MORAL REFORM.

SECTION I.

TEMPERANCE.

The distilling, vending, and using of intoxicating drinks as a beverage shall be and is hereby forbidden throughout our church, as is also the renting and leasing of property to be used for the manufacture or sale of such beverages; also the signing of petitions for license or the entering as bondsmen for persons engaged in the traffic of intoxicating drinks, and should any of our members or preachers be found guilty in this respect, they shall be dealt with as in the case of other immoralities; *provided*, however, that this rule shall not be so construed as to prevent druggists and others from vending or using it for medicinal or mechanical purposes.

SECTION II.

SLAVERY.

All slavery, in every sense of the word, is totally prohibited, and shall in no way be tolerated in our church Should any be found in our society who hold slaves, they can not continue as members unless they do personally manumit or set free such slaves.

And when it is known to any of our ministers in

charge of a circuit, station, or mission, that any of its members hold a slave or slaves, he shall admonish such members to manumit such slave or slaves; and if such persons do not take measures to carry out the Discipline, they shall be expelled by the proper authorities of the Church; and any minister refusing to attend to the duties above described shall be dealt with by the authorities to which he is amenable.*

Section III.

SECRET COMBINATIONS.

A secret combination, in the sense of the constitution, is a secret league or confederation of persons holding principles and laws at variance with the word of God and injurious to Christian character, as evidenced in individual life, and infringing upon the natural, social, political, or religious rights of those outside its pale.

Any member or minister of our church found in connection with such combination shall be dealt with as in other cases of disobedience to the order and discipline of the Church, in case of members, as found on page 25 of Discipline in answer to the third question of Chapter IV., Section 3, and in

*This law, in its essential prohibitory features, was adopted by the General Conference in 1821, Bishop Newcomer presiding. It was amended to its present form in 1826.

case of ministers as found in Chapter VII., Section 4, page 72.

SECTION IV.

OATHS.

We believe that the mode of testifying to the truth when required so to do in a legal form, by way of affirmation, is on us solemly, conscientiously, and fully binding, before God, to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

SECTION V.

WAR.

We most positively record our disapproval of engaging in voluntary, national, aggressive warfare; yet we recognize the rightful authority of the civil government, and hold it responsible for the preservation and defense of our national compact, against treason, or invasion by any belligerent force; and we believe it to be entirely consistent with the spirit of Christianty to bear arms when called upon to do so by the properly constituted authorities of our government for its preservation and defense.

SECTION VI.

THE MARRIAGE RELATION.

1 We believe that the marriage relation is of divine authority; that it is the mutual union of one man and one woman; that the obligation is most

sacred, and morally binding so long as both shall live, and therefore can not be dissolved at will, nor should it be by a decree of a civil tribunal, except on evidence that one party is guilty of adultery.

2. On positive evidence of such guilt the innocent party is freed from further matrimonial obligations and justly entitled to a divorce.

3. We deny the right of marriage by virtue of a divorce obtained for other causes than adultery on the part of the person from whom the divorce is obtained, and therefore the right of the guilty party to remarry.

4. Any person sustaining a married relation contrary to that above recognized as justifiable shall be ineligible to the office of the ministry in this church.

5. Any minister of this church who shall knowingly solemnize the marriage of persons, either of whom has been divorced for other than the above justifiable cause, shall be amenable to the Church for disobedience to the order thereof.

SECTION VII.

MARRIAGE CEREMONY.

Ques. Who of our ministers are permitted to solemnize marriage?

Ans. All ordained ministers, and those that have obtained license from an annual conference, where the law of the state makes it the privilege

of every regularly licensed minister to solemnize marriage; but none having quarterly-conference license are permitted to solemnize marriage.

CHAPTER XI.

DOCTRINAL PUBLICATIONS.

Book-Committee.

1. The editor of the *Religious Telescope*, the editor of the Sabbath-school literature, the editor of the German periodicals, the editor of the *Missionary Visitor*, and the publishing agent shall constitute a book-committee, without whose sanction no book shall be published in the name of the Church or publishing house during the intervals of the General Conference.

Authorship of Doctrinal Publications.

2. No one of our preachers or laymen shall become the author of any doctrinal book or pamphlet, in a printed form, in the name of the Church, without the approbation of the annual conference, or of a committee chosen by the same. And if any preacher or layman violates this rule, he shall be accountable to the class, or the quarterly or annual conference, as the case may be.

CHAPTER XII.

CHARTERS.

Whereas, the laws of certain states require churches and institutions to be incorporated, in order to be recognized by law:

Incorporation of Church-Property.

1. Therefore, in such cases, the quarterly conference of the respective circuits, stations, and missions shall appoint a competent committee, who shall apply to the proper source for an act of incorporation on all the church-property within the bounds of such circuits, stations, or missions; and at the last quarterly conference of each year the presiding elder shall examine said committee in reference to the above subject.

Bequests.

2. When legacies are bequeathed to the Church, the names of the presiding bishops should be inserted in the will of the testator, to be under the control of said bishops and their successors in office, to be appropriated to the purpose specified by the donors.

CHAPTER XIII.

SABBATH-SCHOOLS.

SECTION I.

DUTY TO CHILDREN AND SABBATH-SCHOOLS.

Ques. What shall be done to benefit the rising generation?

Ans.—1. Let those who are in any way zealous for God and the souls of men begin immediately, wherever children are found, to speak freely to them, and instruct them diligently; exhort them to love Jesus their Master, and pray with them earnestly, simply, and plainly, that they may learn to know and remember their Creator in the days of their youth.

2. Wherever practicable, organize Sabbath-schools according to the constitution and by-laws herein contained.

Members' Duties.

3. It shall be the duty of all our members to encourage our Sabbath-schools by their presence when practicable, and always to lend them their aid and influence.

SECTION II.

GENERAL SABBATH-SCHOOL BOARD—CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS.

ARTICLE I.

Name.

This shall be called the General Sabbath-school Board of the United Brethren in Christ.

ARTICLE II.

Composition.

This Board shall be composed of five directors and one secretary, who shall be elected by the General Conference every four years.

ARTICLE III.

Organization.

This Board shall be organized by electing one of their number president, and some suitable person treasurer.

ARTICLE IV.

Object.

The object of this Board shall be to promote the cause of Sabbath-schools in connection with our church and elsewhere, and thus, by our united efforts, to promote the glory of God and the happiness and salvation of mankind.

ARTICLE V.

Duties.

President.—The president shall have the general operations of the Board under his care. He shall call meetings of the Board when necessary, and present the wants of the Board; and he shall sign all orders drawn on the treasurer for the use of the Board, as appropriated by it.

Secretary.—The secretary shall keep a record of all the business transactions of the Board, conduct its correspondence, report to it annually or oftener if desired, and make such reports for it to the General Conference as may be required, and if practicable, at the request of the Board, devote his whole time to its interests.

Treasurer.—The treasurer shall take charge of and hold in trust all the funds and papers of value belonging to the Board, subject to its direction and the written order of the president.

ARTICLE VI.

Meetings, Powers, Duties.

Meetings of the Board shall be held annually, or oftener if need be, at the call of the president, to provide ways and means for the successful operation of its plans. It shall appropriate money to defray all necessary expenses, and shall have power to fill vacancies in its numbers, and to employ any suitable person or persons to perform needed services for the advancement of its objects under its direction. It shall also, through its secretary, make quadrennial reports to the General Conference.

ARTICLE VII.

Appropriations.

The funds of the Board shall be used as follows:

1. To assist in organizing and sustaining Sab-

bath-schools in such localities and in such manner as may be advisable.

2. To conduct the business and carry forward the work of the Board.

Applications for Aid.

3. When aid is needed, those making the application shall first organize a United Brethren Sabbath-school by electing officers and adopting the disciplinary regulations of the Church, and shall report the fact to the secretary, as well as the kind and amount of help needed; and upon a favorable consideration of the application, such supplies as may be considered necessary and advisable shall be furnished. Such donations shall, however, be discontinued unless a church-organization shall be effected after a reasonable time.

SECTION III.

ANNUAL-CONFERENCE RELATIONS AND DUTIES.

Officers.

1. Each annual conference shall annually elect one person who shall be Sunday-school secretary and treasurer, who shall be an advisory member of the General Sabbath-school Board, and whose duty it shall be to give diligent attention to all the interests of this Board before the conference; to receive and transmit the funds for this Board to the treasurer thereof; to be faithful in correspondence

with the secretary of this Board; to hold at a convenient time during the session a Sabbath-school anniversary for the purpose of advancing the Sabbath-school cause.

Pastors' Duties.

2. The pastor shall have general supervision of all the Sabbath-schools on his charge. It shall be his duty to preside at all meetings for the election of officers, or for the organization of Sabbath-schools, and to organize a Sabbath-school at each appointment on his charge where there is not one already; he shall preach on the subject at each appointment at least once a year; he shall report to his conference the number of schools, the number of officers and teachers employed, the number of scholars enrolled, the number of conversions among the scholars, the number of schools continuing through the year, and the amount of money collected for the use of schools, for the general fund, for missions, and for any other purpose.

SECTION IV.

ORGANIZATION OF SABBATH-SCHOOLS.

In order to insure unity in administration and soundness of teaching, all our Sabbath-schools shall, as far as possible, conform to the following:

Organizing Sunday-schools.

1. Any preacher or member of this church may organize a United Brethren Sabbath-school by calling a meeting of the members of the Church, together with other friends of Sabbath-schools, in any community where practicable, and organize by enrolling all who will agree to unite in such organization, and proceed to elect by ballot or otherwise a superintendent and other necessary officers; provided, however, that none be allowed to vote who are under twelve years of age.

Officers.

2. The superintendent and other general officers of the school shall hold their respective offices one year, or until their successors are chosen.

Superintendent's Duties.

3. The superintendent shall render to each quarterly conference an account of the condition of his school, stating also whether he is prompt in opening and orderly in his management of the same, and at the close of his term he shall see that a successor is selected after the manner prescribed; provided, that on stations where it shall be thought best by the pastor the quarterly conference may elect the superintendent.

Dismissal of Superintendent.

4. The quarterly conference shall have power to dismiss a superintendent for moral or other delinquency, or for heresy, and to supply the vacancy.

Teachers.

5. Teachers should be chosen and appointed by the superintendent, with the advice and consent of the preacher in charge, and should be distinguished for piety and aptness to teach, and should be continued as long as they are useful.

SECTION V.

SABBATH-SCHOOLS AND THE MISSIONARY WORK.

Each of our Sabbath-schools is hereby constituted an auxiliary to the branch missionary society within whose limits it is located, and the superintendent, secretary, and treasurer of the Sabbath-school shall be president, secretary, and treasurer of the said auxiliary, and shall report annually, through the preacher in charge, to the branch society. Said preacher is to notify the above-named officers, at the close of each conference year, that such report is due, and, if need be, assist in its preparation. And it shall be the duty of every auxiliary society to hold a quarterly missionary meeting and to take up missionary collections. Each class shall be furnished with a blank book, ruled with columns for

monthly missionary collections, in which the names of all members shall be entered, with the request that each member give monthly or quarterly at the rate of one cent a week or more, and be credited in said book by the teacher, with what they pay, to be reported at the quarterly missionary meeting by the treasurer—these books to be furnished gratis to all our Sabbath-schools by the officers of the Missionary Society at Dayton, Ohio. Any member may become a life member of the auxiliary by the payment of three dollars, and shall be entitled to a certificate of life membership.

SECTION VI.

FORM OF CONSTITUTION OF A SABBATH-SCHOOL.

The following is recommended as a suitable form for the constitution of a United Brethren Sabbath-school:

ARTICLE I.

This school shall be known as the United Brethren Sunday-school of ———.

ARTICLE II.

The object of the school shall be to gather in all, both old and young, as far as possible, for instruction in and the study of the Bible, and to promote the worship of God in the Sunday-school, and to secure the salvation of precious souls.

ARTICLE III.

1. The officers shall be a superintendent, a secretary, a treasurer, a librarian, and, when desired by the school, a chorister and organist. The duties of these officers shall be such as usually pertain to such offices; and whenever it is generally deemed necessary for the interests of the school, an assistant may be elected to each of these offices, each of whom shall be subject in his official duties to his superior officer, except in the absence of such superior.

2. There shall also be an executive committee of three (or five—as the school may prefer), including the superintendent, who shall be a member *ex officio* and chairman; and a majority of this committee shall be members of the United Brethren Church at ———.

3. The superintendent, when at all possible, shall be a member of the United Brethren Church, in good and regular standing.

4. These officers and assistants shall all be elected by ballot annually at the usual place of holding the Sunday-school, and shall hold their offices until their successors are elected.

5. Members of the United Brethren Church, and all enrolled members of the school above ten years of age, shall be entitled to vote at any election of the school.

6. The pastor of the church shall preside at each annual election, whenever practicable, and the superintendent or pastor shall preside at all special elections.

ARTICLE IV.

Vacancies in any of the above offices shall be filled by a special election, notice of which shall be given to the school two weeks previous; but the election under this clause shall be for an unexpired term.

ARTICLE V.

It shall be the duty of the executive committee, with the pastor and superintendent, to select and order suitable literature and helps for the school from time to time, and to devise and put in operation plans for raising necessary funds for this purpose.

ARTICLE VI.

The teachers shall be appointed by the superintendent, in consultation with the pastor and Executive Committee; and the superintendent may, if he choose, consult the respective classes; but he shall be held accountable for the appointment and conduct of all the teachers.

ARTICLE VII.

The place of meeting for the Sunday-school shall be in the usual place of meeting for the United Brethren church-services, and at such hours of the day as shall not interfere with the other church-services.

CHAPTER XIV.

CONSTITUTION OF THE MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

Name.

I. This society shall be called the "*Home, Frontier, and Foreign Missionary Society* of the United Brethren in Christ," and is organized for the purpose of aiding the annual conferences in extending their missionary labors throughout the country, and into foreign and heathen lands.

Life Members and Directors.

II. The payment of ten dollars at one time shall constitute a life member, or fifty dollars at one time a life director. No certificate of life membership or life directorship shall be granted until the full amount is paid

Officers.

III. The officers of this society shall consist of a president, six vice-presidents, secretary, treasurer, and seven directors, who, together, shall constitute a board of directors, and shall be elected every four years by the General Conference.

Duties of Officers.

IV. The president shall preside at all meetings of the Board, and shall have power, in conjunction with the secretary, to call special meetings. In the absence of the president, one of the vice-presidents shall fill his place.

V. The secretary shall keep a correct record of all the proceedings of the society, conduct its correspondence, and devote himself exclusively to the interests of the society. He shall keep a record of all the life members, life directors, legacies, etc., etc. He shall also make out and publish, under the direction of the Board, an annual report of the whole missionary work; also a quadrennial report to the General Conference. His salary shall be determined by the Board, and reported to the ensuing General Conference.

VI. The treasurer shall hold the funds of the society, subject to the order of the Board, and, at the discretion of the Board, devote himself exclusively to the interests of the Missionary Society.

Board of Directors.

VII. The Board of Directors shall hold annual meetings; have power to appoint an executive committee, consisting of five members; make by-laws to regulate its own business; appropriate money to defray incidental expenses; employ missionaries and agents; open new missions; make appropriations to mission-conferences; employ laborers for mission-districts; dissolve mission-conferences; fill vacancies in its own body; in connection with the bishops or any one of them, ordain ministers to the office of elder; and publish, at our own press, such matter as the cause may from time to time demand.

Mission Districts.

VIII. A mission-district shall consist of two or more fields of labor, outside the bounds of an annual conference. Its annual sessions shall be presided over by a bishop, or an elder appointed by the Board of Missions. At these annual meetings the boundaries of fields of labor shall be fixed, the character of members examined, preachers may be received, examined and passed on course of reading, and be ordained. A presiding elder may be elected, if the Board of Missions so advise, and ministers appointed to fill the fields of labor by the presiding officer and the presiding elder.

Missionaries.

IX. Each missionary in the employ of the Board shall report quarterly to the secretary the condition of his mission; and no missionary shall be entitled to his salary who shall neglect to comply with this requirement, or leave his work without the consent of the Executive Committee or the Board of Missions, or his presiding elder. The presiding elders of mission-conferences shall report quarterly the condition of their respective works.

Branch Officers.

X. Each conference shall be considered a branch of this society, and shall elect a treasurer and secretary.

Treasurer.

1. The branch treasurer shall hold the funds designed for the Board, subject to its order.

Secretary.

2. The branch secretary shall keep a record of the proceedings of the annual conference in relation to home, frontier, and foreign missions, separately, and report the same *immediately* after the session of the conference to the secretary of the Board. He shall report the number of missions, appointments, meeting-houses, members at the beginning of the year, members received, and members remaining; Sabbath-schools, scholars; and teachers; what paid on missions as salary, what collected for missions on missions; what collected for missions in the whole conference; how much paid the parent Board, and how much paid to home missions; and the names and *post-office* addresses of life directors and life members. The branch secretaries shall be responsible to their respective annual conferences for the faithful discharge of their duties.

Object of Contributions.

XI. The branch societies, or individual members, may specify to what particular portion of the work their funds shall be applied; provided, however, that if more is thus designated than is neces-

sary for the work specified, it may be applied to some other work, as the Board shall determine.

Home Missions.

XII. Each branch society shall have the exclusive management of the home missions within its own limits; provided, however, that the missionary Board shall be permitted to open and operate missions within the bounds of any annual conference, jointly or independently, by the consent of such conference.

Treasurer's Security to Boards.

XIII. Treasurers of the parent Board and of the branch society shall give approved security.

Bequests.

XIV. All bequests or donations, the interest of which is to go to missionary purposes, made to any of the above societies, shall be kept sacred.

Mission-Conferences.

XV. No mission-conference shall be formed with less than ten ministers and eight hundred lay members; and any territory hereafter occupied with less than the above number of members shall be constituted a mission-district.

Formation of Self-supporting Conferences.

XVI. The bishops shall recommend annually to the Board of Missions which, if any, mission-con-

ferences shall become self-supporting, and on the approval of the Board of Missions shall give notice to said conference one year before being made self-supporting.

Territory of Mission-Conferences.

XVII. The Board of Missions is permitted to occupy any territory within the bounds of an annual conference not occupied by said conference.

Missionary Agent.

XVIII. The Board of Missions is authorized to employ a general missionary agent, who, under the direction of the Board, shall solicit contributions for the use and purpose of the Board in cash, notes, and bequests.

CHAPTER XV.

WOMAN'S MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION.

Articles of Incorporation.

1. The name by which this corporation shall be known is, "The Woman's Missionary Association of the United Brethren in Christ," and the said organization is not for profit.

2. The principal business of the said corporation is to be transacted in the city of Dayton, county of Montgomery, state of Ohio.

3. Said corporation is formed for the purpose of engaging and uniting the efforts of women, in sending missionaries into the foreign and domestic fields of the United Brethren Church, and supporting said missionaries and other laborers in said mission-fields, and of securing by gift, bequest, and otherwise the funds necessary for the purpose aforesaid.

4. Said corporation is not to have capital stock.

BY-LAWS.

BY-LAW I.

Membership.

The payment of one dollar annually shall constitute membership in the association, and payment of ten dollars at one time life membership. The payment of twenty-five dollars at one time shall constitute the donor a life director. By the installment plan the payment of two dollars annually for five years constitutes life membership, or five dollars annually for five years a life directorship. A certificate is given at the time of payment in full.

BY-LAW II.

Organization.

The organization of this society shall consist of a board of managers, nine trustees, and branch and local associations, to be organized under the constitution hereto attached.

BY-LAW III.

Board of Managers.

The Board of Managers shall consist of three delegates from each branch association, who shall be elected at the branch annual meeting, held within three months of the annual meeting of the Board. Said Board shall meet in the First United Brethren Church of Dayton, Ohio, at the time of the meeting of the Home, Frontier, and Foreign Missionary Society, in May, 1876, and annually thereafter, at such time and place as they may from time to time designate.

The duties of said Board shall be advisory to trustees. Life directors of the association shall be regarded as advisory members of the Board of Managers.

BY-LAW IV.

*Duties of the Board of Trustees.**

The Board of Trustees shall have power to select locations for missions, appoint missionaries, appropriate the funds of the association as the interest of the cause may demand, and attend to the administration and general management of the affairs of the association.

* Trustees to be elected by members of the association, who shall vote either in person or by proxy, the first Thursday in June, in the city of Dayton. The officers shall be elected by the trustees.

BY-LAW V.

Relation of the Society to the Church.

This society shall work in harmony with the Home, Frontier, and Foreign Missionary Society of the United Brethren in Christ, and under the direction of the General Conference of said church; and its missionaries shall be subject to the same rules that govern the missionaries of the aforesaid missionary society.

BY-LAW VI.

Funds.

All funds coming into the hands of the treasurer of the association will be held subject to the order of the Board of Trustees; and no funds shall be disbursed by the treasurer except upon the orders of said Board, duly signed by the secretary.

BY-LAW VII.

Branch Societies.

One branch society may be formed within the bounds of any annual conference of the United Brethren Church, by the adoption of the branch constitution.

BY-LAW VIII.

Amendments.

These by-laws may be altered or amended at any annual meeting of the Board of Managers by a vote of two-thirds of the members present.

Branch Constitution.

ARTICLE I.

This society shall be called the ——— Conference Branch of the Woman's Missionary Association of the United Brethren in Christ.

ARTICLE II.

The object of this society is to aid the association to awaken an interest among women in behalf of Christian missions, and to raise funds for their support.

ARTICLE III.

The membership of this society shall consist of the members of the association within the limits of this conference district.

ARTICLE IV.

Section 1. The officers of this society shall be a president, two vice-presidents, a secretary, and a treasurer, who, together, shall constitute an executive committee to supervise the entire work of the association within the conference district. It shall be their duty to make earnest efforts to secure the organization of local societies in all the United Brethren congregations within the bounds of the conference.

Sec. 2. It shall be the duty of the secretary of this society to keep a correct record of its proceed-

ings and the proceedings of the Executive Committee, and transmit a report of the same, with the number of members, to the recording secretary of the Board of Managers at least ten days before the annual meeting of the Board.

Sec. 3. It shall be the duty of the treasurer to receive and hold the funds of the society, and transmit the same semi-annually to the treasurer of the Board, the last report to be sent in at least ten days before the meeting of the Board of Managers.

ARTICLE V.

Each branch society shall hold annual meetings to elect its officers and members of the Board of Managers, and to transact any business pertaining to its work, its members to consist of the officers and three delegates from each local society.

ARTICLE VI.

Each branch society shall provide for the expenses of its delegates to the annual meeting of the Board of Managers.

ARTICLE VII.

Life members within the bounds of the conference shall be regarded advisory members of the annual meeting of the branch society.

Local Constitution.

ARTICLE I.

Local societies may be organized in any United Brethren congregation, by securing names of persons desiring to become members, and proceeding to the election of officers.

ARTICLE II.

The officers of this society shall consist of a president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer, and two or more collectors.

ARTICLE III.

Sec. 1. The duties of the president shall be those usual to the office.

Sec. 2. It shall be the duty of the vice-president to assume the duties of the president in her absence.

Sec. 3. It shall be the duty of the secretary to keep a record of the proceedings of each meeting, with the names of members, and report quarterly to the secretary of the branch society.

Sec. 4. It shall be the duty of the treasurer to hold all funds of the society and transmit the same semi-annually to the treasurer of the branch society.

Sec. 5. It shall be the duty of the collectors to visit members of the Church and solicit names,

collect quarterly dues, and report the number of visits and amount collected at each meeting.

ARTICLE IV.

Any child may become a member of a local society upon such terms as said society shall designate.

ARTICLE V.

All local societies shall meet quarterly, and shall arrange their year with reference to the annual meeting of the branch society.

CHAPTER XVI.

CHURCH-ERECTION SOCIETY.

Name.

I. This society shall be known as *The Church-Erection Society of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ.*, and is organized for the purpose of aiding feeble churches in the erection of houses of worship.

Management.

II. The Board of Missions shall constitute the Board of Managers of this society, and shall be governed by the constitution and by-laws of the Missionary Society so far as they are applicable to this society.

Apportionments.

III. It shall be the duty of each annual conference to make a reasonable assessment to their various fields of labor for this interest, which funds when collected shall be transmitted to the treasurer.

Receipts of Treasurer.

IV. The treasurer of the parent Board of Missions shall receipt for all moneys sent him by the various conference treasurers, that they may make settlement with their respective annual conferences.

Application for Aid.

V. Application for aid from this society must be made to the Board of Managers, through the bishop and the presiding elder of the district and the preacher in charge of the circuit, station, or mission where such house is to be erected, who shall state in writing the condition of the society desiring such aid, the prospects of success, and the security of the investment.

Return of Loans.

VI. Should any society thus aided lose its organization, so as to make the sale of such house necessary, then, out of the proceeds of such sale, the amount loaned them, with interest, shall be refunded to the Church-Erection Board.

Granting of Loans.

VII. The Board shall make no appropriations where there is reasonable prospect that the society asking aid can succeed without it; or where there is no prospect of building up a good society.

VIII. All aid rendered shall be only as a loan, the principal to be refunded, without interest, at such times as the Board may direct, but in no case for a longer term than five years at any one time, or more than five hundred dollars to any individual or single church,—except that in large, growing towns and cities, at the discretion of the Board, the amount may be increased to $1,000, and time extended to ten years.

IX. Moneys shall not be loaned to any society until their church-property is secured by deed as provided for in Discipline; nor shall moneys be loaned to churches until their trustees have forwarded an abstract of the title of their property and their notes, secured by first mortgage on the premises and properly recorded in the records of the courts for the inspection of the Board of Managers or Executive Committee.

Insurance.

X. The trustees of churches which receive moneys from the Church-Erection Society shall be required to secure said church-buildings from loss by fire in some reliable insurance company.

Special Agents.

XI. The Board of Managers may employ one or more special agents; provided, however, that said agency shall not be continued for a longer term than three months, unless it be apparent that said agency is a moneyed success to the society.

CHAPTER XVII.

PRINTING ESTABLISHMENT.

Name.

Rule 1. The above establishment shall be called "The Printing Establishment of the United Brethren in Christ."

Election of Officers.

Rule 2. The legislative authority herein granted shall be vested in the General Conference of said church, whose duty it shall be to elect the necessary officers not otherwise provided for, and make or amend any rules as in their judgment may seem expedient.

Proceeds.

Rule 3. The proceeds of said establishment, over and above contingent expenses, shall be applied to the benefit of traveling and worn-out preachers, and their widows and orphans. The distribution of any available profits of the publishing house for this purpose shall be in proportion

to the number of regular ministers in each annual conference who are *itinerants*, according to the "Itinerant Plan" of the Discipline. It shall be the duty of the secretaries of the annual conferences each year to report to the publishing agent at Dayton, Ohio, the true number of such itinerants as found upon the records of the several conferences; also the name and address of the conference treasurer appointed to receive the dividend awarded to his conference.

Trustees.

Rule 4. A board of seven trustees, elected by the General Conference, shall take the oversight of the establishment.

Officers.

Rule 5. The officers of the establishment shall consist of seven trustees, one agent, and such number of editors as the General Conference shall deem necessary.

Duties of Trustees.

Rule 6. It shall be the duty of the trustees to fix the salaries of agent and editors, to make settlement with the officers of the establishment every six months, and see that they properly discharge their duties, and, if found derelict, may suspend them from office until the General Conference; provided, no such officers shall be suspended until they have been furnished with a copy of the com-

plaints in writing, and have had an opportunity of defense before the Board of Trustees. They shall also have the privilege of making any by-laws which may seem expedient for the better regulation of the minor concerns of the office; provided, they do not violate any part of the foregoing rules.

Duties of Agent.

Rule 7. It shall be the duty of the agent to take charge of the temporal concerns of the office, furnish such material as may be needed, and to act as the general book-agent under the direction of the Board of Trustees. He shall prepare and publish a report annually, through the *Religious Telescope* and *Joyful Messenger*, and shall also make a report to the General Conference. It shall be his duty to make arrangements for *verbatim* reports of the proceedings of the General Conference for publication.

Vacancies.

Rule 8. Should a vacancy occur in any of the offices of the establishment, or in the Board of Trustees, the trustees may fill said vacancy, until the sitting of the next General Conference.

Employment of Time.

Rule 9. No editor or officer employed in the establishment shall accept any office or engage in any business which will interfere with the duties of his office.

CHAPTER XVIII.

COURSE OF READING AND STUDY.

SECTION I.

QUARTERLY CONFERENCE PREACHERS.

Examinations.

Anyone receiving quarterly conference license to preach shall be examined at the close of each year of his standing by the presiding elder and preacher in charge in the following course of study:

FIRST YEAR—BIBLE DOCTINE.

Human Depravity; Atonement; Redemption; Repentance; Justification by Faith; Regeneration; Adoption.

Books.—Bible; Philosophy of the Plan of Salvation; Binney's Theological Compend; The Preacher and His Sermon, Etter,—Part I.; History of the United Brethren in Christ; written sermon.

SECOND YEAR—BIBLE DOCTRINE.

Witness of the Spirit; Holiness; Possibility of Final Apostasy.

Books.—Bible; Alexander's Evidences of Christianity; Upham's Interior Life; Fletcher's Appeal; The Preacher and His Sermon, Etter,—Part II.; written sermon.

THIRD YEAR—BIBLE DOCTRINE.

Humanity and Divinity of Christ; Personality and Deity of the Holy Ghost; Resurrection of the Body; Future General Judgment.

Books.—Bible; Upham's Life of Faith; Coleman's Geographical History of the Bible; The Preacher and His Sermon, Etter,—Part III.; Barrow's Companion to the Bible; written sermon.

Delinquents.

Any one failing to read the above course and to pass a satisfactory examination therein shall at the close of the third year of his probation forfeit his license.

Permanent License.

Any one completing the above course of study and passing a satisfactory examination in the same shall receive a license acknowledging that fact, which shall exempt him from annual renewal, so long as his doctrine and deportment shall be conformable to the doctrine of Christ and the usages of our church.

SECTION II.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE PREACHERS

Examinations.

All licentiate preachers, are to be examined on the following courses of study by the annual conference to which they belong. They shall be ex-

amined, also, each year of their probation, on the doctrine and government of the Church, as taught in our book of Discipline. It is presumed that a fair knowledge of the ordinary branches of an English or German education has been acquired before entering upon this course. If the licentiate does not possess such knowledge, he shall be examined, each year, on grammar and geography.

FIRST YEAR — BIBLE DOCTRINE.

Human Depravity; The Atonement; Redemption; Repentance; Justification by Faith; Regeneration; Adoption; Witness of the Spirit; Christian Perfection; Possibility of Final Apostasy; Existence and Attributes of God.

Books Required.—Bible; Watson's Institutes; The Preacher and His Sermon, Etter,—Parts I. and II.; Philosophy of the Plan of Salvation; Harris' Great Commission; Fletcher's Appeal; History of the United Brethren in Christ; an essay or written sermon.

Books Recommended.—Bridges' Christian Ministry; Upham's Life of Faith; Whateley's Rhetoric; Shedd's Christian Doctrine; Thwing's Drill-Book of Vocal Culture; Barrow's Sacred Geography and Antiquities; Christlieb's Protestant Foreign Missions.

SECOND YEAR — BIBLE DOCTRINE.

Trinity; Divinity and Humanity of Christ; Personality and Deity of the Holy Ghost; Doctrines Relating to Man.

Books Required.—Bible; Watson's Institutes, continued; The Preacher and His Sermon, Etter, —Parts III. and IV.; Blackburn's History of the Christian Church, to chapter sixteen; Hopkins' Law of Love; Haven's Mental Philosophy; Alexander's Evidences of Christianity; written sermon.

Books Recommended.—Upham's Interior Life; Neander's Planting and Training of the Christian Church (Robinson's Translation); Jahn's Archæology; Weber's Universal History; Shedd's Christian Doctrine; Kurtz' Church-History; Schaff's Apostolic Church.

THIRD YEAR — BIBLE DOCTRINES AND INSTITUTIONS.

Immortality of the Soul; Resurrection of the Body; Future General Judgment; Eternal Rewards and Punishments; The Christian Sabbath; The Lord's-Supper; Christian Baptism.

Books Required.

Bible; Watson's Institutes; Blackburn's History of the Christian Church, concluded; Smith's Old-Testament History; Smith's New-Testament His-

tory; Coleman's Geographical History of the Bible; Butler's Analogy; Barrow's Companion to the Bible; Whateley's Logic; written sermon.

Books Recommended.

Vinet's Homiletics; D'Aubigne's History of the Reformation; Josephus' Antiquities of the Jews; Hackett's Illustrations of Scripture; Upham's Divine Union; Blackburn's History of the Christian Church; Hopkins' Law of Love; Haven's Mental Philosophy; Alexander's Evidences of Christianity; written sermon.

SECTION III.

GERMAN COURSE OF READING.

Quarterly-Conference Preachers.

FIRST YEAR.

Bible, Discipline, Kirchen-geshichte, Fletscher's Appelation, Nelson's Ursachen des Unglaubens, Hare's Rechtfertigung.

SECOND YEAR.

Bible; Discipline; D'Aubigne's Reformationgeschichte; Christlich-Apostolisches Glaubensbekenntniss, von Nast; Bekoempfung des Unglaubens, von Dr. Christlieb.

THIRD YEAR.

Bible; Discipline; Zeller's Seelenlehre; Philosophie des Erloesungs Plans; Nast Ueber die Gottheit Christi.

Annual-Conference Preachers.

FIRST YEAR.

Bible; Discipline; Kurtz Abriss der Kirchengeschichte; Clark's Handbook; Sulzberger's Dogmatic—First Part: Fletcher's Appeal; Nelson on Infidelity; Hare on Justification; Nippert's Practical Theology; Wurst's Sprachlehre; written sermon—subject, Justification.

SECOND YEAR.

Bible; Wurst's Sprachlehre, continued; Sulzberger's Dogmatic—Part II.; D'Aubigne's History of the Reformation; Zeller on the Soul; Philosophy of the Plan of Salvation; Luthardt's Apologetische Vortraege; written sermon—subject, The Christian Sabbath.

THIRD YEAR.

Bible; Discipline; Sulzberger's Dogmatic—Part III.; Liscoe's Apostolic Creed; Osterze's Christologische Betrachtungen, von Dr. Nast; Christliche Erfahrung, von Merrill; Pearson's Infidelity; Dr. A. Huelster's Psychology (Seelenlehre); written sermon—subject, Baptism.

SECTION IV.

DELINQUENTS.

Any licentiate who fails to read the books required, and to submit to the examination, shall, at the close of the third year of his probation at

furthest, have his name erased from the annual-conference record, unless a reasonable excuse can be given for such failure, in which case he shall be referred back to and have standing in the quarterly conference as a licensed preacher; *provided*, if in the judgment of the conference they see fit, the conference may relieve graduates of Union Biblical Seminary from examination on the above course.

CHAPTER XIX.

MEETING-HOUSES AND PARSONAGES.

Ques. Is anything advisable in regard to the building of meeeting-houses?

Church-Houses.

Ans. Let all our meeting-houses be built plain and neat, with free seats, and not more expensive than necessary.

Trustees.

Ques. 1. To whom are our meeting-houses, and the premises belonging to them, to be deeded?

Ans. To a board of trustees, who shall in all cases have warranty deeds legally executed and made to them and their successors in office, in trust for the church of the United Brethren in Christ, who shall have the same recorded in the county records where the property is situated.

Ques. 2. How is the board of trustees to be constituted?

Ans. Whenever it is contemplated by a society to purchase or build a meeting-house, it shall be the duty of a leader or steward of such society to make it known to the quarterly conference of the circuit or station to which he belongs, whose duty it shall be to appoint a judicious board of trustees, where the law of the state does not otherwise provide, of not less than three in number, or as the law of the state in which said house is to be built may direct; provided, however, that at least a majority of such board of trustees shall be members of our church. The trustees shall hold their office during the pleasure of the quarterly conference.

Building of Church-Houses.

Ques. How are the trustees to proceed in building a house?

Ans. No society shall commence the building of any meeting-house without first getting an act of incorporation, where the law of the state requires it. They shall form an estimate of the amount necessary to procure a lot, to build, and to make such other improvements as may be considered necessary. And they shall at no time proceed with the building of a house of worship, beyond the means, either in hand or sufficiently secured,

so as to avoid involving our houses of worship in any way by debt.

Duties of Trustees.

Ques. What are the duties of trustees?

Ans. The trustees shall hold meetings annually, or oftener if need be, and shall elect from their number the following officers; namely, a president, secretary, and treasurer. The meetings of the board shall be subject to the call of the president. It shall be the duty of the secretary to keep a correct record of all the business transactions of the board, in a book provided for that purpose, which shall at all times be open for inspection by the quarterly conference of the charge having the care of the property. The treasurer shall receive all funds for meeting-house, cemetery, and parsonage purposes, and pay out the same under the direction of the board, and report to the board the financial condition at their several meetings.

The board shall make an annual report to the quarterly conference.

Vacancies.

Ques. What shall be done when a vacancy or vacancies occur in the board of trustees?

Ans. It shall be the duty of the quarterly conference to appoint a suitable person or persons to fill such vacancies, and shall see that the records

of the county wherein such board may reside shall correspond with the facts in the case, according as the law of the state may require, after such vacancy has been filled.

Vacant Houses.

Ques. What shall be done when any of our houses are vacant?

Ans. It shall be the duty of the quarterly conference of the nearest circuit or station to appoint not less than three suitable persons for trustees, who shall have the power, when authorized by two thirds of the members of that conference, to lease, rent, or sell such meeting-house, and the appurtenances belonging to it, and to appropriate the money arising from such lease, rent, or sale, by the direction of said conference, toward the erection of new meeting-houses or the liquidation of debts on old ones.

Parsonages.

If the vacated house be a parsonage [a parsonage is vacant when the preacher appointed to the charge does not reside therein] the proceeds shall be disposed of in like manner; but in every case the proceeds arising from the lease, rent, or sale of parsonage property shall be kept sacred for parsonage purposes.

Transfer from German to English.

When a lot is deeded to an English United Brethren society, or to a German United Brethren

society, and one or the other ceases to exist in an organized form by deaths, removals, expulsions, or otherwise, the remaining organized class shall have full right to make such improvements or repairs on said lot, as may be needed for worship, and a peaceable possession.

The above rules to be observed in purchasing or building parsonage-houses.

Presiding Elders' Duties.

It shall be the duty of our presiding elders, as soon as convenient, to appoint, or see that three or five suitable persons are appointed, with the consent of the quarterly conference, to take up subscriptions to build or purchase parsonage-houses for their respective stations or circuits, the same to be deeded to those three or five trustees, and their successors in office, for the use of the church of the United Brethren in Christ. We recommend that all parsonage-houses be plain, and located in some central place.

Division of Interests.

In cases where fields of labor having parsonages upon them are divided, the disposition of said parsonages shall be submitted to a board of arbiters, consisting of three members of the Church, one to be chosen by each quarterly conference, and the third by these two, to whom the whole matter shall

be referred, their decision of the case being final. In cases where more than two quarterly conferences are interested, the same plan shall be pursued.

CHAPTER XX.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Name.

I. There shall be a general board of education, known by the name of "The Board of Education," under the care of the General Conference of the church of the United Brethren in Christ.

Officers.

II. This board shall consist of twelve members, elected by the General Conference, so distributed as to have at least two members in each bishop's district,—except the Pacific, which shall have one,—who shall hold office for four years, six of whom shall be clergymen; the remainder may be lay members of the United Brethren Church. *Five* members, including the president or vice-president, shall constitute a quorum.

III. The officers shall be a president, vice-president, recording secretary, corresponding secretary, and treasurer. These shall be elected by the members of the board at their first regular meeting after the sitting of General Conference,

and shall hold office until the next regular session of the General Conference.

The Board may elect any competent persons, members of the United Brethren Church, to be their treasurer and corresponding secretary; these, if elected outside of the board, shall be advisory members of the Board.

The corresponding secretary is to devote such portion of his time to the work of the board as it may direct, his compensation to be fixed by the board.

In case of vacancy occurring in the board, by death or otherwise, the board shall have power to fill the vacancy, the election to be by ballot, and the person elected to hold office until the next meeting of the General Conference.

There shall be at least one session of the board each year. Meetings of the board shall be called by the president, upon request of three members.

Objects.—Beneficiary Aid.

IV. The object of this board shall be—1. To raise funds by collection, donation, bequest, or otherwise, to aid by loan, without interest, as the executive committee may determine, in educating, in both their collegiate and theological courses, pious young persons who are preparing themselves for the work of the gospel ministry, or as missionaries,

in the United Brethren Church; provided, however, the board shall have power to receive money and use it for other educational purposes as donors may direct.

Publications.

2. To seek by the publication of tracts, pamphlets, addresses, or books upon educational questions, to diffuse among our members a more general knowledge of the value of a sanctified education and of a well-instructed ministry, and thereby awaken in them a better appreciation of our institutions of learning, and of the obligations resting upon them to give of their substance for their support.

Reports and Recommendations.

3. To make an annual report of the condition, financially and otherwise, of the colleges and other educational institutions of the Church; to make such recommendations to the managers of these institutions as will tend to make them more efficient; to secure, as far as may seem desirable, harmony of courses of study between preparatory schools, and colleges and universities.

4. To discourage the multiplication of schools and colleges when they can not be properly supported. Conferences or a conference wishing to establish a school shall first counsel with the Board of Education, both as to the advisability of founding it, and

also as to the location, and any school started without the sanction of this board shall not be recognized as a church-school.

Collections.

V. To accomplish these results, the board may cause an annual collection to be taken on the next Sabbath following the last Thursday of January, or at such other time as the presiding elder of the district may deem most suitable. The preacher in charge, or some other competent person, shall first preach a sermon or make appropriate remarks concerning the object, plans, and working of this board, and then take a collection in such manner as will secure the largest amount of funds. If the board think best, it may apportion the amount to be raised to the various conferences, according to their number and ability, and these in turn shall apportion to their respective fields of labor, and the funds thus raised shall be sent to the treasurer of the board.

Recommendation for Aid.

VI. Young persons aided by this Board must first be recommended as suitable persons to receive aid, by the conference in whose bounds they live, or to which they belong, or by the Board of Missions when the applicant does not reside within the bounds of any conference, or by an educa-

tional committee appointed by said conference, to whom all requests for aid, not acted upon by conference, or which shall occur during the interim of its sitting, shall be referred.

Course of Study in Church Schools.

VII. For the purpose of greater unity and efficiency in our educational work, the General Conference recommends that the length of a course of study leading to degrees be three years in the preparatory department and four years in the college, and asks all the schools in the Church to adopt this standard as soon as possible.

Honorary Members.

VIII. The board shall have power to make persons honorary members of the same by the payment of fifty dollars. The persons thus made honorary members shall have the right to sit in the meetings of the board and engage in its deliberations, but shall have no right to vote.

Executive Committee.

IX. The board shall have power to appoint an executive committee from its own body, and to make such by-laws to regulate its own proceedings, and to effictually accomplish the object of its creation, as shall not be inconsistent with this constitution.

Quadrennial Report.

X. The board, through its corresponding secretary, shall make to the General Conference a report of all the work done during the preceding four years, including money received by collections, bequests, or otherwise, the amount paid out, and the purposes for which it was paid. The board may propose to the General Conference, from time to time, such plans as it may consider useful or necessary for the success of the work committed to it.

Amendment.

XI. No addition or amendment to the provisions of this constitution shall be made unless by consent of a majority of the members of General Conference present at any of the sessions. Notice of this proposed addition or amendment shall have been given at least one day previous.

CHAPTER XXI.

BOUNDARIES.

SECTION I.

BISHOPS' DISTRICTS.

Eastern District.

Pennsylvania Conference, Eastern German, Virginia, Parkersburg, Alleghany, Erie, Muskingum, and Tennessee.

Northwestern District.

Fox River Conference, Michigan, St. Joseph, Upper Wabash, Rock River, North Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, West Des Moines, Elkhorn, West Nebraska, Colorado.

Southwestern District.

Arkansas Valley Conference, Neosho, Kansas, West Kansas, Southern Missouri, Missouri, Southern Illinois, Illinois, Lower Wabash, White River, Indiana, Central Illinois, East Des Moines, East Nebraska.

Ohio District.

Scioto Conference, Sandusky, Miami, Auglaize, Ohio German, Ontario, North Ohio, Western Reserve, Kentucky, Central Ohio.

Pacific District.

California Conference, Oregon, Walla Walla.*

SECTION II.

ANNUAL CONFERENCES.

Alleghany.

Beginning at the south-west corner of Mercer County, Pennsylvania; thence along the southern

* NOTE.—In the stationing of the bishops they were not confined to these districts, except in the case of the Pacific District, but were directed to attend the conferences in rotation. For convenience in giving the statistics of the Church, the districts are retained in the Discipline.—[EDITOR.]

line of Mercer and Venango counties to Clarion County; thence north along the eastern line of of Venango County to Warren County; thence along the southern line of Warren, McKean, and Potter counties; thence north along the eastern line of Potter County; thence along the state line between New York and Pennsylvania to the north-east corner of Bradford County; thence south along the eastern line of Bradford, Sullivan, and Lycining county-lines to the Susquehanna River; thence down the said river to the mouth of the Juniata River, except Union and Snyder counties, and that portion of Juniata County now occupied by East German Conference, which shall belong to East German Conference; thence up the Juniata River to the Tuscarora Mountains; thence south along the summit of the Tuscarora Mountains to the state line between Maryland and Pennsylvania; thence along the southern boundary of Pennsylvania to the south-west corner of the state; thence northward along the western line of Pennsylvania to place of beginning.

Arkansas Valley.

Beginning at the north-west corner of Neosho Conference; thence west to Colorado line; thence south to the south line of the state; thence east to the south-west corner of Neosho Conference; thence north to the place of beginning.

Auglaize.

Beginning at Union City, Indiana; thence west with the Bellefontaine & Indianapolis Railroad, to Winchester; thence on a straight line to the south-east corner of Huntington County, Indiana; thence on the east line of said county north to the Wabash River; thence down said river to the crossing of the Toledo, Wabash & Western Railroad; thence with said railroad to Ft. Wayne, including said city; thence along the line of North Ohio Conference to Defiance; thence along the line of Sandusky Conference, including Ada, North Washington, and Dunkirk, to Forest; thence with the Cleveland, Sandusky & Cincinnati Railroad, to the line of Hardin County; thence on the east line of said county, to the south-east corner thereof; thence on the north and east lines of Union County, to the Delaware and Springfield branch of the C. C. C. & I. Railroad; thence with said railroad to Milford Center, Ohio; thence with the Pan-Handle Railroad including Urbana, Horatio, and Bradford; thence north west along the narrow-guage railroad to Renville; thence west on the O. C. & I. Railroad to Union City, the place of beginning. The Waterhouse Chapel shall still be permitted to be served by the preacher in charge of Hill Grove Circuit, Miami Conference.

California.

Includes the State of California.

Central Illinois.

Beginning at Peru, on the Illinois River; thence up the Illinois River to the mouth of the Kankakee River; thence with the Chicago Branch of the Illinois Central Railroad to Tolono; thence with the Great Western Railway to Bement; thence direct to Shelbyville; thence down the Okaw River to Vandalia; thence direct to the mouth of the Illinois River; thence up said river to the place of beginning.

Central Ohio.

Beginning at Zanesville, on the Muskingum River; thence west on the Maysville Pike to Lancaster; thence west on the Muskingum Valley Railroad to the east boundary-line of Miami Conference (Pontius appointment remaining with Pickaway Circuit); thence north along the east lines of Miami and Auglaize conferences to Forest, on the Pittsburg, Fort Wayne, and Chicago Railroad; thence east along said road to the east line of Richland County, to Sandusky Conference (so as to retain in Sandusky Conference, Forest, Pleasant Ridge, Upper Sandusky, North Robinson, Crestline, and Osceola circuits); thence south to the north-east corner of Knox County, along said

county line of Coshocton County to Dresden; thence along Muskingum River to Zanesville, the place of beginning.

Colorado.

Bounded by the Union Pacific Railroad on the north, and by the state lines of Colorado on the east, south, and west.

East Des Moines.

Beginning at the mouth of the Iowa River; thence up said river to the east line of Marshall County, Iowa; thence south to the Mahaska County line; thence west to the corner of said county; thence south to the Des Moines River; thence up said river to White Breast Creek; thence up said creek to the west line of Marion County; thence south to the corner of said county; thence south-west to the Wayne County line, six miles east of the north-west corner of said county; thence south twelve miles; thence west six miles; thence south to the Missouri state line; thence east on the line between Iowa and Missouri to the Mississippi River; thence up said river to the place of beginning.

East German.

Beginning at the Atlantic Ocean; thence along the 40th parallel of north latitude to the Delaware River; thence to the north-east boundary of the city of Philadelphia; thence west and south along

the boundary line of said city to the Schuylkill River, leaving the city of Philadelphia and Camden, New Jersey, to be occupied in common by Pennsylvania and East German conferences, the former exclusively in English, and the latter exclusively in the German language; thence up said river to the foot of Penn Street in the city of Reading; thence up said street to Tenth Street; thence north along Tenth Street to the city limits; thence westward around said city limits to the Lebanon Valley Railroad; thence west along said railroad to Beaver Creek, leaving the following appointments south of Lebanon Valley Railroad and now occupied by said East German Conference to be occupied by said conference; namely, Shafferstown, Blue Church, Avon, Palmyra, Fishbums, and Snavelys; thence up said Beaver Creek to the South Mountain; thence across said mountain to Stony Creek; thence west to the Susquehanna River; thence along the line of Alleghany Conference to the state of New York.

East Pennsylvania.

Commencing at Dauphin; thence along the east side of the Susquehanna River to the state line between Pennsylvania and Maryland; thence along the Pennsylvania state line to Delaware; thence south to the south-west corner of Delaware; thence along the south line of Delaware; thence north

along Delaware Bay and River to the southern point of New Jersey; thence along the eastern coast of New Jersey to 40th parallel; thence west and south along the East German Conference lines to the place of beginning; provided, that nothing in these boundary lines shall prevent the German and Pennsylvania conferences from occupying territory as provided for in their boundaries; also Otterbein and Third churches, with any exclusively German missions they may open in the city of Baltimore.

Elkhorn.

Commencing at the mouth of the Platte River; north along the Iowa and Minnesota state lines to the north-west corner of Pipestone County; thence west to the west line of Dakota Territory; thence south to the north line of town twenty-four in Nebraska; thence east on said line to the source of Cedar River; thence down said river to Fullerton; thence south to the Platte River; thence east along said river to the place of beginning.

Erie.

Beginning on the shore of Lake Erie, at the north-west corner of the State of Pennsylvania; thence south along the state line between Ohio and Pennsylvania to the south-west corner of Mercer County, Pennsylvania; thence east with the line as described in the bounding of the Alleghany Con-

ference to the New York state line, and including the state of New York and all that part of Pennsylvania embraced within the above described limits.

Illinois.

Beginning at the junction of the Mississippi and Rock rivers; thence up the latter stream to the crossing of the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad; thence east with said railroad to the Illinois River; thence down the Illinois River to its mouth; thence up the Mississippi to the place of beginning.

Indiana.

Beginning at the south-east corner of Franklin County, Indiana; thence along the line of the White River Conference, as described in the boundaries of that conference, to the White River due west of Franklin, Indiana; thence down said river, and the Wabash, to the Ohio River; thence up said river to the mouth of the Great Miami River; thence up the state line between Ohio and Indiana to the place of beginning.

Iowa.

Beginning on the Mississippi River, with the north line of the State of Iowa; thence due west on said line to the west line of Winnebago County; thence due south to the Dubuque & Sioux City Division of the Illinois Central Railroad; thence

east along said railroad to the Iowa River; thence down said river to its junction with the Mississippi River; thence up the Mississippi to the place of beginning.

Kansas.

Beginning at the south-east corner of Maumee County, Kansas; thence west to the center of McPherson County; thence north to the Nebraska and Kansas line; thence east to the Missouri River; thence on the Kansas and Missouri line to the place of beginning.

Lower Wabash.

Beginning at Gosport, on White River; thence with the railroad to Greencastle; thence with the Indianapolis & Terre Haute Railroad to the Wabash River; thence up said river to the mouth of Bruletts Creek; thence up said creek to Cherry Point; thence west on the line of the Indianapolis, Decatur & Springfield Railroad, to and including Tuscola; thence north by the Illinois Central Railroad to Tolono; thence west and south with the line of Central Illinois Conference to the junction of the Illinois Central and Ohio & Mississippi Railroad; thence by the Skillet Fork and Little Wabash rivers to Carmi; thence down the Little Wabash River to its mouth; thence up the Wabash and White rivers to the place of beginning.

Miami.

Beginning at the mouth of the Great Miami River; thence north on the line between Ohio and Indiana, to Union City, and to include that city; thence east with the C. C. & I. Railroad to Versailles; thence with the Toledo & Northern Narrow Gauge Railroad, to Bedford; thence east with the Pittsburgh, Cincinnati & St. Louis Railway to the east line of Champaign County, Ohio, including Piqua; thence south on the east lines of the counties of Champaign, Green, Clinton, and a part of Brown County, to Ripley; thence down the Ohio River to the place of beginning.

Michigan.

Beginning at the shore of Lake Erie, at the northeast corner of Monroe County, Michigan; thence west, on the north line of Lenawee, Hillsdale, and Branch counties to the Grand Rapids & Indiana Railroad; thence by said railroad to Kalamazoo; thence by the South Haven & Kalamazoo Railroad to South Haven; thence along the shore of Lake Michigan to Grand Haven; thence by the Detroit & Milwaukee Railroad east to Detroit; thence down the Detroit River and the western shore of Lake Erie to the place of beginning.

Muskingum.

Beginning at the point where the Pittsburgh, Ft. Wayne & Chicago Railroad crosses the line between

Pennsylvania and Ohio; thence west on the line of said railroad, to the west line of Ashland County, Ohio, embracing Warner's Chapel, Benjamin Warner's, and Lower's appointments; thence south to the north line of Knox County; thence west to the north-west corner of said county; thence south to the south-west corner of Knox County; thence east along the lines of Knox and Coshocton counties, to Dresden; thence down the Muskingum river to its mouth; thence up the Ohio River and Ohio state line to the place of beginning.

Missouri.

Embraces all that part of the State of Missouri lying north of the Missouri River.

Minnesota.

Embraces all the State of Minnesota and the counties of Grant, Dual, and Codington, of Dakota.

Nebraska.

Nebraska Conference embraces the south-eastern portion of Nebraska, and as far west and north as the lines describing the West Nebraska Conference boundaries.

Neosho.

Beginning at the south-west corner of Chautauqua County, Kansas; thence north to the south line of Kansas Conference; thence due east to the north-east corner of Linn County; thence south to

the state line; thence west to the place of beginning.

North Michigan.

Embraces that part of the state of Michigan north of the Detroit, Milwaukee, and Grand Haven Railroad.

North Ohio.

Beginning at the north-west corner of Branch County, Michigan; thence east on the north lines of Branch, Hillside, Lenawee, and Monroe counties, to the north-east corner of Monroe County; thence on the coast of Lake Erie to the mouth of Maumee River; thence up said River to Defiance, Ohio; thence up the Wabash, St. Louis, and Pacific Railroad, (the towns which this line touches to be included within North Ohio Conference) to Fort Wayne; thence (leaving Fort Wayne to Auglaize Conference) on the Fort Wayne and Chicago Railroad to Columbia, Whitley County; thence due north to the line of Noble County; thence east to the corner of Noble County; thence north, including the Salem appointment within North Ohio Conference, to the state line of Michigan; thence west to the south-west corner of Branch County; thence to the place of beginning.

Ohio German.

Bounded by the state lines of Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, and Illinois. They are permitted to go

into any of the western states or territories, where doors of usefulness open unto them, to labor among the German population.

Ontario.

Includes all of the Province of Ontario, in the Dominion of Canada.

Oregon.

Includes in its territory all that portion of country lying west of the Cascade range of mountains, in both Oregon and Washington Territory.

Parkersburg.

Beginning on the summit of the Alleghany Mountains, at the line between Pennsylvania and Virginia; thence along the summit of said mountain south-west to the line between Virginia and North Carolina; thence west on said line to the south-west corner of the State of Virginia; thence with the Virginia and Kentucky line north to the Ohio River; thence with said river to the Pennsylvania state line; thence east on said line to the place of beginning.

Pennsylvania.

Beginning on the summit of South Mountain on the line between Maryland and Pennsylvania; thence to Westminister, Maryland; thence to Baltimore, including that city; thence along the Chesapeake Bay to the mouth of the Susquehanna

River; thence up said river to the mouth of the Juniatta River, except that Otterbein Church of Harrisburg and Deman's Island belong to Pennsylvania Conference; thence up the Juniatta River to the Tuscarora Mountains; thence along the summit of said mountain to the line between Pennsylvania and Maryland; thence along said line to the place of beginning.

Rock River.

Biginning at the junction of the Mississippi and Rock rivers; thence east with the north boundary of the Illinois Central, Illinois, and Upper Wabash conferences to the Indiana state line; thence north on said line to Lake Michigan, around the border of Lake Michigan to the Wisconsin state line; thence along said state line to the Mississippi River; thence down said river to the place of beginning.

Sandusky.

Beginning at the mouth of the Vermillion River, on Lake Erie; thence on an air-line south, to the south-west corner of Ashland County; thence with the north and west lines of Knox County, to the south-west corner of said county; thence to the north-west corner of Trenton Township, Delaware County; thence to the south-east corner of Genoa Township, of the same county; thence west on the Scioto Conference line, embracing Pleasant Valley,

in Madison County; thence along the east and north lines of Union County, to the south-east corner of Hardin County; thence along the east line of said county to Forest; thence west on the Pittsburgh and Fort Wayne Railroad to Johnstown; thence to Cairo; thence to Kalida; thence to Defiance; thence down the Maumee River and the southern shore of Lake Erie to the place of beginning.

Scioto.

Beginning at Zanesville, on the Muskingum River; thence west on the Maysville pike, to Lancaster; thence west on the Muskingum Valley Railroad to the east line of Miami Conference (Pontius appointment to remain on Pickaway Circuit); thence south, embracing Highland County and a part of Brown County, to Ripley, on the Ohio River; thence up said river to the mouth of Muskingum River; thence up said river to Zanesville, the place of beginning.

Southern Illinois Mission-District.

Embraces all that part of the State of Illinois lying south and west of the Central Illinois and Lower Wabash Conferences.

Southern Missouri.

Beginning at the south-west corner of the State of Missouri; thence running south along the line

between Arkansas and Indian Territory to the south line of the fourth tier of counties in Arkansas; thence east to the east line of the state; thence north to Missouri state line; thence to the mouth of the Missouri River; thence west with said river to the state line; thence south to the place of beginning.

St. Joseph.

Beginning at Peru, Indiana, on the Wabash River; thence up said river to Huntington; thence up the Auglaize Conference line to Ft. Wayne; thence by the Pittsburgh, Ft. Wayne & Chicago Railroad, to Columbia City; thence due north to the line of Noble County; thence east to the south-east corner of said county; thence north on the east lines of Noble and Lagrange counties to the Michigan state line; thence west to the south-east corner of St. Joseph County; thence on the east and north lines of said county to the Grand Rapids & Indiana Railroad; thence by said railroad to Kalamazoo, Michigan; thence by the Kalamazoo & South Haven Railroad to Lake Michigan; thence along the lake shore to the line of Illinois and Indiana; thence south to Michigan City; thence by the Lafayette & Michigan City Railroad to Lafayette, Indiana, Michigan City, and all towns on said railroad to belong to St. Joseph Conference; thence along the Strawtown Road, including the town of Jefferson,

to the Indianapolis & Peru Railroad; thence along said railroad to the place of beginning, including all the towns and churches north of Kokomo.

Tennessee.

Embraces all that part of the State of Tennessee east of a due north and south line drawn through Nashville, the capital of the state.

Upper Wabash.

Beginning at Gosport, on White River, to the crossing of the Indianapolis & Peru Railroad; thence on the Strawtown Road to Lafayette; thence by way of Lafayette & Michigan City Railroad to Michigan City; thence west to the Illinois and Indiana state line to Kankakee City; thence south along the Chicago branch of the Illinois Central Railroad to Tuscola, and including Tolono; thence east with the line of Lower Wabash Conference to place of beginning.

Virginia.

Beginning at the south-east corner of the State of Virginia; thence along the western shore of the Chesapeake Bay to Baltimore; thence to Westminster; thence to the summit of the South Mountain, on the state line between Maryland and Pennsylvania; thence west on said line to the summit of the Alleghany Mountains; thence south, along the summit of said mountains, to the state line between

Virginia and North Carolina; thence east on said line to place of beginning. The Virginia Conference shall also include all the appointments embraced in the Alleghany and New Germany circuits, now occupied by the said conference within the limits of Parkersburg Conference.

Walla Walla.

Includes all that portion of Oregon and Washington Territory lying east of the Cascade Mountains, and also Idaho Territory.

West Des Moines.

Beginning at the north-west corner of Winnebago County, Iowa; thence to the north-west corner of the state; thence south on the state line to the southwest corner of the state; thence east to the south-east corner of Decatur County, Iowa; thence north and east on the line of East Des Moines Conference to the Iowa River; thence up said river to the north line of Hardin County; thence west to the south-west corner of Wright County; thence north to the place of beginning.

West Kansas.

Beginning on the north at the center of Republic County; thence south to the north line of Arkansas Valley Conference; thence west to the Colorado line; thence north to the Nebraska line; thence east to the place of beginning.

West Nebraska.

Beginning at the north-east corner of Hamilton County; thence south to Nebraska state line; thence west to the southwest corner of the state of Nebraska; thence north to the north-west corner of the state of Nebraska; thence east to the north-east corner of Nebraska; thence south to the Platte River; thence up said river to the place of beginning. Central City and Fullerton may be supplied by the Kansas Conference.

Western Reserve.

Beginning at the north-east corner of the State of Ohio; thence south on the state line to the crossing of said line by the Pittsburgh, Ft. Wayne & Chicago Railroad; thence west, embracing Pleasant Valley, Paradise, and Carr appointments, with said railroad, to the west line of Ashland County, Ohio; thence north to the mouth of Vermillion River; thence east along the shore of Lake Erie to the place of beginning; provided, that Orangeville Church in Ohio remain with Erie Conference, and Beaver Church in Pennsylvania remain with Western Reserve Conference.

White River.

Beginning at and including Indianapolis and suburbs; thence up White River to the crossing of

the Indianapolis & Peru Railroad; thence along said railroad to the Wabash River; thence up said river to the Wells County line; thence south to the south-east corner of Huntington County; thence on a straight line to Winchester; thence eastward along the railroad to the Ohio and Indiana state line; thence south along the state line to the south-east corner of Franklin County, Indiana; thence westward to Greensburg; thence to Columbus; thence to Nashville; thence west to White River; thence up the river to the south line of Marion County; thence west to the south-west corner of said county; thence north to the north-west corner of the same county; thence east on the north line to the Peru & Indianapolis Railway. Kokomo and all the towns and churches on and in the vicinity of the Indianapolis & Peru Railroad, south, are within the bounds of White River Conference. All the towns and churches north of Kokomo, on and in the vicinity of said railroad, are within the bounds of St. Joseph Conference.

Wisconsin.

Embraces all the territory of the state of Wisconsin.

CHAPTER XXII.

FORMULAS.

SECTION I.

ORDINATION OF ELDERS.

1. On the day appointed there shall be a suitable sermon delivered.

2. After their names have been read aloud, the bishop or elder shall read the following articles to all who may be chosen for ordination:

An elder "must be blameless, as the steward of God; not self-willed, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre; but a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate; holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers." (Titus i. 7-9.)

Ques. Are you assured that you are inwardly moved by the Holy Ghost to take upon you the office of the ministry, to serve God in the church of Christ to the honor and glory of his holy name? If so, answer, "I trust I am."

Ques. Do you believe the Holy Scriptures, Old and New Testament? If so, answer, "I do believe them."

Ques. Will you apply due diligence to frame and fashion your life according to the doctrines of

Christ, and to make yourself, as much as in you lieth, a wholesome example to the flock of Christ? If so, answer, "I will, the Lord being my helper."

Ques. Will you obey them to whom the charge and government over you is committed, and follow their godly admonitions with a willing and ready mind? If so, answer, "I will endeavor, through the grace of God, to do so."

Then prayer is to be offered.

After prayer, the bishop and elders shall lay their hands upon the head of every one of them, and say:

"Take thou authority to execute the office of an elder in the church of God, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen."

Hereupon the bishop or elder shall deliver to every one of them the Holy Bible, saying:

"Take thou authority to preach the word of God. and administer the ordinances in the church of Christ."

Then the bishop or elder shall pray. And after prayer he shall read from Luke xii. 35-38:

"Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning; and ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that, when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately. Blessed

are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching; verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them. And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants."

After this the following benediction is to be pronounced:

The peace of God keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Section II.

MARRIAGE CEREMONY.

We are gathered together in the sight of God, and in the presence of these witnesses, to join together N. and M. as husband and wife. If any person present knows any just cause or impediment why these persons should not be joined in marriage, let the same now speak or forever after keep silent.

[If no impediment be alleged, then shall the minister say unto the man:]

"N., wilt thou have this woman to be thy wedded wife, to live together after God's ordinance? Wilt thou love, honor, and comfort her, in sickness and in health, in prosperity and adversity, and forsaking all others, keep thee only unto her so long as ye both shall live? If so, then answer, 'I will.'"

[Then shall the minister say to the woman:]

"M., wilt thou have this man to be thy wedded husband, to live together after God's ordinance? Wilt thou love, honor, and obey him, in sickness and in health, in prosperity and adversity, and forsaking all others, keep thee only unto him so long as ye both shall live? If so, then answer, 'I will.'"

[Then the minister shall require them to join their right hands, and say:]

"Those whom God hath joined together, let no man put asunder.

"Inasmuch as N. and M. have consented together in marriage, and have witnessed the same before God and these witnesses, I pronounce them husband and wife, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen."

SECTION III.

BURIAL OF THE DEAD.

After the coffin is lowered into the grave, the minister, if the deceased is a child or an adult Christian, shall repeat the following:

"Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble. He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not." "Lord, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is; that I may know how frail I am."

"In the midst of life we are in death; unto

whom should we seek for succor but unto thee, O Lord, who for our sins art justly displeased." Our hope is in thy Son Jesus Christ, who hath said, "I am the resurrection, and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die." "For we know that, if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."

"And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them."

"There shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."

Inasmuch as God in his wise providence has called out of time into eternity the soul of our (brother, sister, or child,) we commit his (or her) remains to the ground, earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust, in the confident hope of the general resurrection through the Lord Jesus Christ, at his coming and glory; that this corruptible body shall be raised up and be fashioned like unto the glorious body of Christ, be reunited with the soul, and be received into everlasting habitations. Amen.

BENEDICTION.

SECTION IV.

CHURCH-DEDICATION SERVICE.

1. Scripture reading (Psalm 84; or, Isaiah 62 and Psalm 122.)

2. Singing.

3. Prayer.

4. Singing.

5. Sermon.

6. Monetary offering.

7. Singing.

8. Reading with congregation standing:

"But will God indeed dwell on the earth? behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens can not contain thee; how much less this house that I have builded.

Yet have thou respect unto the prayer of thy servant, and to his supplication, O Lord my God, to hearken unto the cry and to the prayer, which thy servant prayeth before thee to-day:

That thine eyes may be open toward this house night and day, even toward the place of which thou hast said, My name shall be there: that thou mayest hearken unto the prayer which thy servant shall make toward this place.

And hearken thou to the supplication of thy servant, and of thy people Israel, when they shall pray toward this place: and hear thou in heaven thy dwelling-place, and when thou hearest, forgive.

If any man trespass against his neighbour, and an oath be laid upon him to cause him to swear, and the oath come before thine altar in this house: then hear thou in heaven, and do, and judge thy servants, condemning the wicked, to bring his way upon his head; and justifying the righteous, to give him according to his righteousness.

When thy people Israel be smitten down before the enemy, because they have sinned against thee, and shall turn again to thee, and confess thy name, and pray, and make supplication unto thee in this house: then hear thou in heaven, and forgive the sin of thy people Israel, and bring them again unto the land which thou gavest unto their fathers.

When heaven is shut up, and their is no rain, because they have sinned against thee; if they pray toward this place, and confess thy name, and turn from their sin, when thou afflictest them: then hear thou in heaven, and forgive the sin of thy servants, and of thy people Israel, that thou teach them the good way wherein they should walk, and give rain upon thy land, which thou hast given to thy people for an inheritance.

If there be in the land famine, if there be pestilence, blasting, mildew, locust, or if there be caterpillar; if their enemy besiege them in the land of their cities; whatsoever plague, whatsoever sickness there be; what prayer and supplication so-

ever be made by any man, or by all thy people Israel, which shall know every man the plague of his own heart, and spread forth his hands toward this house: then hear thou in heaven thy dwelling-place, and forgive, and do, and give to every man according to his ways, whose heart thou knowest; (for thou, even thou only, knowest the hearts of all the children of men;) that they may fear thee all the days that they live in the land which thou gavest unto our fathers.

Moreover concerning a stranger, that is not of thy people Israel, but cometh out of a far country for thy name's sake; (for they shall hear of thy great name, and of thy strong hand, and of thy stretched out arm;) when he shall come and pray toward this house: hear thou in heaven thy dwelling-place, and do according to all that the stranger calleth to thee for: that all people of the earth may know thy name, to fear thee, as do thy people Israel; and that they may know that this house, which I have builded, is called by thy name." (I. Kings viii. 27-43.)

"We will go into his tabernacles: we will worship at his footstool." (Psalm cxxxii. 7.)

"For the Lord hath chosen Zion; he hath desired it for his habitation.

This is my rest for ever: here will I dwell; for I have desired it.

I will abundantly bless her provision: I will satisfy her poor with bread. I will also clothe her priests with salvation: and her saints shall shout aloud for joy." (Psalm cxxxii. 13-16).

"Now, my God, let, I beseech thee, thine eyes be open, and let thine ears be attent unto the prayer that is made in this place.

Now therefore arise, O Lord God, into thy resting place, thou, and the ark of thy strength: let thy priests, O Lord God, be clothed in salvation, and let thy saints rejoice in goodness." (II. Chron. vi. 40, 41.)

"Save us, O Lord our God, and gather us from among the heathen, to give thanks unto thy holy name, and to triumph in thy praise." (Psalm cvi. 47.)

9. Charge to the trustees.

10. Delivery of the keys in the name of the Trinity to hold in trust for God and the United Brethren in Christ.

11. Doxology.

12. Benediction.

FORMS.

TRANSFERS.

Form of Transfer of Preacher.

This is to certify that ——— is a regular ——— or ——— in the Church of the United Brethren in Christ, of ——— Conference, and is hereby transferred to ——— Conference of said church.

Form of Certificate of Transfer of Member.

This is to certify that A. B. is an acceptable member of the United Brethren in Christ, at ——— Class, ——— Charge, ——— Conference, and is hereby transferred to ——— Society, of ——— Charge, ——— Conference.

..... Pastor.

[Dates, etc.]

Form of Certificate of Membership.

This is to certify that A. B. is a member in good standing in the church of the United Brethren in Christ, at ———, and is hereby recommended to the confidence and fellowship of Christians everywhere.

..... Pastor.

[Dates, etc.]

Form of Certificate of Dismissal.

This is to certify that A. B. has been until this date a member in good standing in the church of the United Brethren in Christ, at ———, and at ——— request is dismissed from the Church by a vote of the class.

..... Pastor.

[Dates, etc.]

HOME, FRONTIER, AND FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

Form of Bequest.

I give and bequeath to the Home, Frontier, and Foreign Missionary Society of the United Brethren in Christ, organized by the General Conference of said Church, May 20, 1853, and incorporated in Butler County, Ohio, September 23, 1854, the sum of ——— dollars; and the receipt of the treasurer of the society shall be a sufficient discharge thereof to my executors and administrators.

WOMAN'S MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION.

Form of Bequest.

I give, devise, and bequeath to the Woman's Missionary Association of the United Brethren in Christ, for..... .....Dollars.

....

REPORTS.

FORM OF PREACHER'S REPORT.

Quarterly Report, ——— Annual Conference, United Brethren in Christ.

	Classes or Fields of Labor.									
.....District. .....Circuit. .....Mission. .....Quarter. .....188...	Salem.....	Bethel.....	Shiloh.....	Union.....	Liberty....	Zion	Fairview..	Carmel....	&c	Totals.....
Members received										
Members lost.....										
Members at present.										
Baptisms.....										
Discourses preached										
Pastoral visits										
Class-meetings held.....										
Preacher's salary.....										
Presiding elder's salary..										
Telescopes.....										
Children's Friends.....										
Missionary Visitors.....										
For the Little Ones.....										
Quarterlies.....										
Scholars in S. S.....										
Collected for missions....										
Collected for local S. S...										
Col'd for church expenses										
Collected for.....										
Collected for.....										
Collected for										
Collected for.....										

.....Name.

[The blanks can be filled out to suit either pastor or presiding elder, as the presiding elder would simply give the total column of each work.]

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Milton. Sager

Otta Sager

Mrs. Jessie Long.

Mary. Fearn.

Miss M. M. Timmins.